

**'Lack of fire in the belly'**

Rep. Barney Frank comes to Sacto, blasts Democrats and Republicans.

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**Remembering Diane Whipple**

Concert on Sunday to benefit foundation started in her memory.

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**Festival queens**

Gay and lesbian films at SF Internat'l Film Fest.

see Arts section



# BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 31 • No. 16 • 19 April 2001

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971



Rick Gerhardt

CUAV's Tina D'Elia presents the figures on reported hate crimes.

## Anti-LGBT incidents on the rise

by Katie Szymanski

Anti-LGBT murder is occurring less frequently, but attacks motivated by sexual orientation are on the rise both nationally and locally, according to the annual report of the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, released last Thursday, April 12 in San Francisco by Community United Against Violence.

The report covers the year 2000 and shows not only a compilation of hate crime statistics in comparison to 1999, but corresponding images in the media, such as Lenny, the "faggot" character introduced by World Championship Wrestling who wore pink trunks and body glitter and was consequently beaten to a pulp.

Nationally, the report includes numbers from 11 anti-violence programs. From this collection of data, anti-LGBT incidents increased by 8 percent from the previous year, from 1,992 to 2,151. Areas that saw a marked increase were Chicago (+5 percent), Colorado (+66 percent), Los Angeles (+3 percent), Michigan (+26 percent), Minnesota (+147 percent), New York (+5 percent), and San Francisco (+7 percent). The number of offenders also grew, from 3,262 to 3,344.

The murder rate of anti-LGBT attacks fell 43 percent, although perhaps not for lack of trying: assaults with a weapon were up 11 percent, attempted assaults with a weapon rose 28 percent, and assaults without a weapon grew by 4 percent. The weapons of choice? The use of rope and restraints grew by 200 percent, while the use of bricks, bottles, and rocks grew 53 percent. The use of knives and sharp objects rose 24 percent, and the use of vehicles rose by 131 percent. Despite these figures, the report pointed out, the number of exceptionally violent acts appeared to decrease, and the number of victims suffering serious injuries fell by 41 percent. Of the offenders identified by

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## Supervisor moves against 'glam' HIV drug ads

by David Fraser

**S**exy sells. Does it also kill? Against increasing controversy over upbeat outdoor advertising for HIV/AIDS drugs on city property, San Francisco Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano is turning up the heat on pharmaceutical companies to tone down their ads.

One way to get their attention: a possible ban on such advertisements on city property.

Ammiano told the *Bay Area Reporter* on Monday, April 16, that given the serious issues involved, he is prepared to move in that direction.

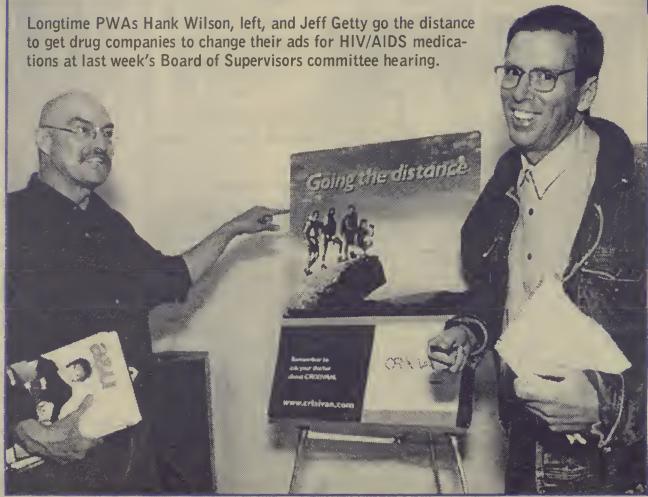
Many prevention advocates and experts argue that drug companies are using ads that paint a rosy face on the ravages to the body from HIV/AIDS. In effect, they say, the firms are selling the disease to sell drugs.

Ammiano, who chaired a hearing on direct-to-consumer HIV/AIDS drug advertisements last Thursday, April 12, said he was moving to get a quick response from pharmaceutical firms.

"I haven't gotten any direct responses," Ammiano said. "I've heard from a New York

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Longtime PWAs Hank Wilson, left, and Jeff Getty go the distance to get drug companies to change their ads for HIV/AIDS medications at last week's Board of Supervisors committee hearing.



Jane Philomen Cleland

## TIC control battle heats up

by Katie Szymanski

Tenant activists rallied at City Hall last Thursday, April 12, to protest the scores of Ellis Act evictions that are forcing large numbers of people out of San Francisco and leaving the city devoid of culture and teeming with homelessness and sport utility vehicles.

Demonstrators unveiled a statistical analysis compiled by the San Francisco Tenants Union that showed 27 percent of the evicted are seniors, while children, the elderly, and disabled make up more than half of all such evictions.

"It's disturbing news to see that it's the most vulnerable tenants being displaced," said Ted Gullicksen, office manager of SFTU.

Ellis Act evictions – which since 1998 have soared from 61 to 881 per year – usually result in the elimination of what was once af-

fordable housing; in other words, property bringing high rental income is rarely pulled off the rental market. The city has built just a fraction of the housing needed to replace what has been yanked from tenants, according to the report, which means that an entire class of people – long-term residents who actually built this city and made it desirable in the first place – can no longer stay here. The district with the most such evictions over the past few years is the Castro, according to the report, which shows District 8 with 23 percent of the 1,233 Ellis Act evictions since 1999. District 5 (the Haight) accounted for 21 percent of Ellis Act evictions, District 3 (Chinatown/North Beach) had 18 percent, and Districts 9 (the Mission) and 2 (the Marina) had 9 percent.

At last week's demo, Tommi Avicolli Mecca, of the Housing Rights Committee and the Castro Tenants Union, cited the high number of Ellis Act evictions in the Castro and pointedly called on Supervisor Mark

Leno, whose District 8 includes the area, to support Supervisor Chris Daly's pending legislation that advocates say would close the loopholes around condo conversions and tenancies-in-common.

"One-quarter of the Ellis Act evictions are in District 8," Avicolli Mecca said. "We call on Supervisor Mark Leno to sign on to the legislation. I say to you Mark Leno, if you're listening to us, sign on to the TIC legislation. We are watching you and we will watch how you vote on this important legislation."

District 8 tenant Phoebe Vemier, who is being evicted under the state Ellis Act after living for 13 years at her residence, also called on Leno to support the proposed legislation. "We're not just another statistic, we are human beings," Vemier said. "I voted for Mark Leno. We are all in his district and we need his support. The whole fabric of the city is being changed."

Proposed TIC legislation, introduced by page 14 ►

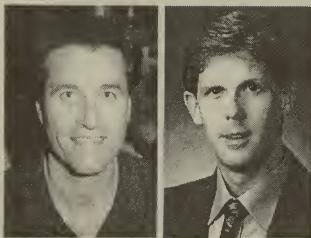


Recently evicted tenants, including Phoebe Vemier, second from left, listen as Tommi Avicolli Mecca, with bullhorn, urges Supervisor Mark Leno to support the TIC proposal being considered by the Board of Supervisors.

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## Celebrating Easter, SF style



Rick Gerharter

"Sandwich Girl" and Peter Pippin tail enjoy the sun at the Easter celebration April 15 in Dolores Park in San Francisco. The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence's annual funfest included a "Hunky Jesus" contest, dog shows, bestowing of "Saints" honors, and the distribution of grants to local nonprofit organizations. Hundreds of people attended the event.

## Ellen LaPointe named exec. director at Project Inform

by David Fraser

Project Inform, the nation's leading HIV/AIDS treatment information and advocacy source, has appointed Ellen LaPointe as its new executive director.

"It has been nearly 20 years since the first AIDS cases were reported in the United States, and the growing impact of HIV and AIDS worldwide is staggering," LaPointe said. "Since its inception in 1985, Project Inform has provided inspiration and hope to people living with HIV/AIDS, their healthcare and service providers, and their families and friends.

"At this important juncture, as we all redouble our efforts to develop and implement strategies to eradicate the devastating effects of HIV and AIDS, I am honored to join an organization at the forefront of HIV/AIDS treatment information and advocacy."

LaPointe graduated from Brown University in 1989 with a degree in community health. She

was coordinator of the Brown University AIDS Program until 1992, when she moved to San Francisco to become director of clinical research and the HIVCare program at Saint Francis Memorial Hospital.

She subsequently obtained a law degree from the Boalt Hall School of Law at the University of California, Berkeley, and has practiced intellectual property law and general litigation at Heller Ehrman White & McAuliffe in San Francisco.

LaPointe has served on numerous national and local HIV/AIDS-related boards and committees. These have included the AIDS Legal Referral Panel, the Community Advisory Board of the AIDS Clinical Research Center at the University of California, San Francisco, the board of directors of the Healing Alternatives Foundation in San Francisco, and the national operations and national executive committees of the Community-Based AIDS Clinical Trials Network, sponsored by the American Foundation for AIDS Research.



Ellen LaPointe

"Ellen's entire career has made her uniquely qualified to be Project Inform's executive director at this crucial point in the AIDS epidemic," said board of directors president Joseph Garrett.

Project Inform founding director Martin Delaney added, "Ellen has long been an effective activist and friend to people with HIV and AIDS. She is well known and respected in our movement and I greatly look forward to working with her as Project Inform enters the next stage of its evolution and activities. We could not have found a better choice to fill this critical role." ▼

## Seeds of change at AIDS Memorial Grove

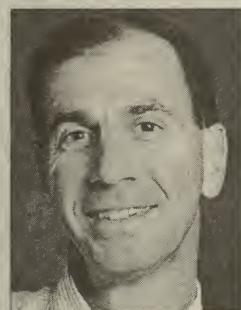
by Katie Szymanski

As is often the case with the National AIDS Memorial Grove, there is some bad news, and then there is an effort to make the bad a little better. The grove both lost and gained an executive director in the past couple of months, as Thom Weyand — who held the post for the past three years — took a permanent leave to tackle his illness, and Norman Robinson — the former executive director of a Santa Clara AIDS program — took over the reins.

For Weyand, leaving the grove was tough, but a re-occurrence of lymphoma meant he had to devote his energies to getting well.

"It was a difficult decision," Weyand told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "I deeply regret having to leave under these circumstances but at same time I recognize the need for my full attention to my own healing, and the need for the grove to get the best possible attention and service from its staff; it deserves nothing less."

Weyand said he plans to stay involved with the grove as much



Norman Robinson

as possible, but that may be limited for a while.

"I'd love to stay involved, although I'm not allowed to garden for two months because of the exposure to bacteria," said Weyand.

Weyand is now back from Los Angeles where he underwent high-dose chemotherapy and stem cell rescue for AIDS-related lymphoma. He is doing well but feels "about 20 years older."

The grove found Weyand's replacement in Robinson, who most

recently served as interim executive director for the San Jose State University Alumni Association, and before that headed up AIDS Resources, Information & Services (ARIS), Santa Clara's largest AIDS prevention and support services agency.

"I'm delighted I was able to come in and help out," Robinson told the *B.A.R.* "I was looking for a new opportunity and I'm just thrilled to be back doing something that has meaning for me and that I really believe in."

Robinson, 60, is a Peninsula resident who finds the commute to the city bearable simply because of the work he does. The executive director of the grove manages two full-time staffers, oversees programs and construction projects in the grove, and is responsible for development, fundraising, and the endowment.

"What I really hope to do is be able to continue and finish what's already been started," said Robinson. "I want to make it possible for the grove to be maintained in perpetuity so that people in future years can see the beauty and serenity of it." ▼

# First quarter report shows AIDS deaths up, cases down

by David Fraser

**D**eaths from AIDS in San Francisco rose but reported cases of the disease dropped this quarter compared with January to March 2000, the Department of Public Health's quarterly report shows.

In its quarterly AIDS surveillance report covering January-March 2001, DPH noted 81 deaths in the past three months, compared with 62 in the year-ago period, or a 30.6 percent increase.

But new cases reported totaled 162, a 25 percent drop from the 216 cases a year ago.

Dr. Sandra Schwarcz, the AIDS surveillance unit director at DPH who compiled the report, pointed out in a statement to the *Bay Area Reporter* that delays in reporting cases average one to two months.

Reporting delays for AIDS diagnoses and deaths can skew the picture. Schwarcz said that the quarterly report thus also presents data by dates of diagnosis or death.

## Shift toward women

Broken out by gender, there were 50 cases of AIDS diagnosed in the first quarter of this year among men, or 89.3 percent of total cases, versus five cases among women (8.9 percent). One transgender person was diagnosed (1.8 percent).

In January-March 2000, the diagnosed case totals were men, 43 (87.8 percent) and women, six (12.2 percent).

Overall in 2000, there were 531 cases diagnosed, 464 among men (87.4 percent), 57 among women (10.7 percent), and 10 among transgenders (1.9 percent), the DPH report said.

Comparing the most recent complete annual figures, Schwarcz said researchers found that "although the number of new AIDS cases declined between 1999 and 2000, the proportion of cases diagnosed among women increased."

"The HIV epidemic hit women later than men and so we expect to see an increase in women diagnosed with AIDS relative to men."

"Also," Schwarcz added, "the proportion of women on HAART [highly active antiretroviral therapy] has been less than the proportion of men on HAART so there may also be some differences in progression from HIV to AIDS."

## Ethnicity differences

DPH's breakdown of AIDS cases by race and ethnicity for this quarter compared with the year-ago quarter was: white, 32 versus 27 (57.1 versus 55.1 percent); African American, 16 versus 13 (28.6 versus 26.5 percent); Latino, four versus seven (7.1 versus 14.3 percent); Asian/Pacific Islander, three versus two (5.4 versus 4.1 percent); Native American, one versus zero (1.8 versus 0 percent).

In terms of racial and ethnic differences, Schwarcz said, "There has been a decline in the proportion of AIDS cases among whites and an increase in the proportion among non-whites. This is also

probably a reflection both of the HIV epidemic, where the first cases were among white men, as well as access to care and use of HAART. Note that we find less HAART use among African Americans but all other race/ethnic groups are similar in HAART use to whites."

## Cumulative cases

Cumulative reported AIDS cases in San Francisco for the past 20 years (July 1981 through March 2001) totaled 27,484. A year ago the figure was 26,823. Cumulative deaths went from 18,225 in 2000 to 18,605 so far this year.

The total number of people living with AIDS in San Francisco through last year was 8,879, the report noted.

Schwarcz said, "What is most important is to note that San Francisco AIDS cases accounted for 23 percent of cumulative California cases (120,802) and 4 percent of U.S. cases (753,907). That's substantial if you compare the population size of San Francisco relative to the state and the country. In terms of our trends in AIDS diagnoses and deaths, we see continued declines in both."

She added that San Francisco has a higher case fatality compared with California and the entire country. "However," she said, "this is most likely a reflection of more complete and timely reporting of deaths. In our survival analyses we find that survival continues to improve for persons with AIDS." ▼

# Singer, slammer, professor headline Cal's 'queer days'

by David Fraser

**S**ongwriter, singer, and signer Mark Weigle and lesbian/feminist slam poet Alix Olsen are headlining performances at the Queer Awareness Days (QAD) program series this month at the University of California, Berkeley.

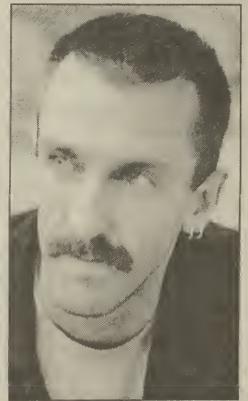
Weigle, 33, is well-known for incorporating American Sign Language into his songs. In an interview, he told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he plans to alternate singing as an out gay performer with open audience discussion during his performance. It will be Thursday, April 26 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., in the 100 Genetics and Plant Biology building.

Weigle learned ASL at Vista College and through the UC program. His first CD includes a song to his deaf ex-boyfriend, titled "When I See You Say."

"It's about me and music, written from a hearing to a deaf man," Weigle said. "I'm singing about how my partner never heard me sing because he could have no relationship with music ... how our love and communication worked."

"In the song, I tried to integrate sign language interpretation into English, for example with the line that says, 'When you take me to your heart/ with both of your arms.'"

Weigle said the song is an ex-



Mark Weigle

ample of what he likes to do in performance: "At pride festivals, deaf/hearing couples will come up afterwards with tears in their eyes, seeing their experience reflected in the song."

## Olsen's slam

This Saturday, April 21, Olsen will appear in a slam poetry performance titled "Alix Olsen: Spoken Word" at 7:30 p.m. in 159 Mulford Hall. She was a member of New York City's Nuyorican Poets Café when they won the 1998 National Poetry Slam Championships. Alison Bechdel, creator

of the comic strip "Dykes to Watch Out For," describes Olsen as a "red-hot, fire-bellied, feminist-spewin' volcano. Plus she rhymes!"

There will also be an open mike for all to strut their stuff."

In a different vein, on Wednesday, April 25, Professor Judith Butler of Berkeley's Center for the Study of Sexual Culture will give the QAD inaugural lecture, titled "Is Kinship Always Already Heterosexual?"

Butler, chair of the Rhetoric and Comparative Literature Department, has authored groundbreaking works on philosophy, feminist, and queer theory. She

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## Honoring 'Scout's Honor'



Rick Gerharter

Steve Cozza, who founded Scouting For All several years ago, accepts the crowd's cheers April 13 at Herb St. Theatre during the San Francisco premiere of *Scout's Honor*, a documentary about Cozza's battle with the Boy Scouts of America to accept gay members and troop leaders. The film won two awards at the Sundance Film Festival and is expected to be released in theaters this summer, as well as be shown on PBS.

## Director Spielberg quits Boy Scouts board

by Cynthia Laird

**T**he fallout over last year's U.S. Supreme Court ruling allowing the Boy Scouts of America to discriminate against gays continued this week when Oscar-winning producer and director Steven Spielberg said he is quitting his post on the BSA advisory board because the group excludes gays.

"The last few years in scouting have deeply saddened me to see the Boy Scouts of America actively

ly and publicly participating in discrimination. It's a real shame," Spielberg said in a statement released Monday, April 16.

Spielberg had been a member of the Boy Scouts advisory board for about 10 years, according to his publicist Marvin Levy. Although he was on the advisory board, Spielberg did not currently have an active role with the Scouts.

"Once scouting fully opens its doors to all who desire the same experience that so fully enriched me as a young person, I will be happy to reconsider a role on the

advisory board," Spielberg added.

Last June, in a divided 5-4 decision, the Supreme Court ruled that the Boy Scouts' national policy banning gay members and troop leaders is constitutional. The high court cited the right to freedom of association granted to private groups.

Since the ruling, a number of cities, schools, churches, and companies across the country have severed ties or cut financial contributions to the Boy Scouts in light of their own anti-discrimination policies. ▼

## LGBT employees unite for Pride at Work

by Katie Szymanski

**M**ark your calendar and make those reservations for one of the most exciting labor events of the year.

Building on the message and location of the World Trade Organization demonstrations in 1999, Pride at Work - the LGBT labor group - will host its fourth biennial convention and labor conference in the suburbs of Seattle from June 21-24. LGBT union activists from around the country and the world will convene for the largest and most important international conference of queer laborers; Pride at Work is, after all, the newest constituency group of the 13-million-member AFL-CIO.

The theme of this year's convention is "Out & Organizing Globally," and featured speakers will address all the human rights issues that face LGBT labor organizers, from sweatshops to gender expression. Speakers include San Francisco's own Supervisor Tom Ammiano; the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's Elizabeth Toledo, executive director of that organization; AFL-CIO's Linda Chavez-Thompson, the executive

vice president of the national federation of unions; and others. Participants will include representatives from labor and LGBT organizations in Brazil, Guatemala, South Africa, and other countries. Workshops will cover organizing, globalization and the LGBT movement, and domestic partner bargaining, to name a few topics.

"All of us in Pride at Work are excited about the convention," said Nancy Wohlfarth, co-chair of national Pride at Work AFL-CIO and vice president of the California State Federation of Labor. "We're looking forward to being in the Seattle area, where working people from all over fought back against the big corporations' version of globalization."

Conference attendees will be greeted with a welcome reception featuring the documentary *Live Nude Girls Unite!* about the Lust Lady union organizing drive in San Francisco. They will enjoy an awards banquet, a boat cruise of

Puget Sound, and top off the weekend by marching as a labor contingent in the Seattle Freedom Day Rally and Parade.

"This is our second conference since we became an official group of the AFL-CIO," said Vince Quackenbush, vice chair of the San Francisco chapter of Pride at Work. "There's been a large investment of resources and sponsorship in this event, and we all expect it to be quite successful."

Application information, workshop proposal forms, and a full schedule of events can be found by calling the Pride at Work national office at (202) 637-5014, or by visiting [www.prideatwork.org](http://www.prideatwork.org).

To register for the convention and get more information, call Pride at Work's national office in Washington at (202) 637-5014, or Out Front Labor in Seattle at (206) 903-9488, or contact Quackenbush at (415) 219-1538, or [vquack@hotmail.com](mailto:vquack@hotmail.com). ▼

## San Jose LGBT center celebrates 20 years

by Katie Szymanski

**C**omedian Kate Clinton will headline the entertainment at the 20-year anniversary bash for the South Bay's DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center next Saturday, April 28. Individuals, businesses, and groups are invited and encouraged to attend the celebration of two decades of service to the LGBT community, held at the Wyndham Hotel, 1350 North First Street, in San Jose.

"So many people have contributed to creating a better life for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people over the past 20 years," said DeFrank board Presi-

dent Laurie Aguinaga. "This year's event celebrates those contributions and recognizes our allies in creating a just and compassionate Silicon Valley."

To recognize as many trailblazers as possible, groups are encouraged to select their own heroes as guests at their table, and those leaders will be honored during the event.

The evening will also include a reception and silent auction at 6 p.m., a program at 7:30, dinner at 8, and entertainment and dancing from 9 to midnight, courtesy of Clinton and deejay Georgia.

Tickets to the event are \$150 per person or \$1,250 for a table of 10. For more information, visit [www.defrank.org](http://www.defrank.org), or call (408) 293-3040. ▼

# Task force issues recommendations to keep queer students safe

by Katie Szymanski

**H**arassment. Substance abuse. Violence. Suicide. LGBT youth are at a much greater risk for all of these, although former Assemblywoman and current state Senator Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica) has attempted to change that.

Kuehl's AB537 — the legislation that included sexual orientation and gender identity in school-wide non-discrimination codes — is officially in effect statewide, but may need some help when it comes to making schools aware of the concerns of queer students, and that's where the AB537 Task Force comes in. The 36-member task force, established by state Superintendent of Public Instruction Delaine Eastin following the passage of AB537, last week announced 12 recommendations for schools to adopt in order to ensure a safe learning environment for all its students.

The recommendations ask schools to do the following:

- Ensure that all school personnel are informed of the provisions of AB537 and that all district and site personnel are trained in the law's requirements. Even bigoted principals will have to learn how to recognize their own breed of stupidity.
- Develop and provide guid-

ance for students about their rights and responsibilities as related to AB537. Kids might not speak up if they are unaware that they do not deserve to be treated like poo.

- Identify and use educational resources that combat discrimination and hate. Teachers and administrators need all the help they can get when it comes to eliminating a societal ill from schools.

- Integrate methods to monitor compliance with AB537 into existing educational compliance systems, and develop additional systems to support compliance. There are a variety of programs that hold schools accountable for what goes on within their walls, and they should make safety around gender and sexual orientation issues a priority.

- Seek resources to develop a public information campaign to support awareness around AB537. Schools let Pepsi ads grace their scoreboards; they can surely find a way to get the word out that homophobia and transphobia isn't cool.

- Create a permanent advisory committee to review policy, legal compliance, training, resources, and data and to provide input on curricular standards revisions. As other programs change with the times, so too, should education around sexual orientation and gender identity issues.

- Request additional resources from the Legislature for civil rights compliance and training related to AB537. We've all seen what gets approved with our tax dollars; now it's time for something with meat on its bones.

- Acknowledge LGBT historical figures, events, concepts, and issues. Stack the shelves with

*Heather Has Two Mommies* and give a lesson about Harvey Milk; allowing kids to learn about important historical events does not have to be a promotion of any particular sex act.

- Charge the permanent advisory committee with the task of developing further recommendations.

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State Senator Sheila Kuehl

Rick Gerhardt

## Public, group tours at LGBT center construction site to start Saturday

by David Fraser

**I**t's hard hat time: the San Francisco LGBT Community Center Project is offering public tours of its construction site at the corner of Market and Octavia streets.

The tours are free and are open to anyone, from neighborhood and community groups to interested members of the public.

Part of the center's "Recruit, Recruit, Recruit" campaign to gain new donors and supporters, the tours will be held on various Saturdays through spring and summer, depending on demand.

The first site visit is set for this Saturday, April 21, with tours running every half hour from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The following Sat-

urday, April 28, is also scheduled.

Board members of the center project will make a pitch for financial donations during the tours.

The center is in its final stage of construction and is expected to open this fall.

"The center belongs to the whole LGBT community in San Francisco," said Mike Marshall, interim executive director. "We want people from every neighborhood and every organization to come see, get excited, get involved, and contribute to their community center."

Center staff have been doing extensive outreach to generate interest in the first tour. They have contacted organizations including LGBT groups in various businesses, the Golden Gate Business As-

sociation, the chamber of commerce, the Hayes Valley Neighborhood Association, the Deaf Gay and Lesbian Center, and the San Francisco Planning and Urban Association, among others.

You don't need to be affiliated with anything to join a tour. But everyone will be required to sign a liability waiver and wear a construction hard hat. There will be no construction at the site on April 21.

"It's everyone's chance to put on a hard hat and help build our community," Marshall said. ▼

For information or to sign up for a tour, call Ian Myszenski at (415) 437-2257 or e-mail her at [ianm@sfcenter.org](mailto:ianm@sfcenter.org) to sign up in advance.

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Volume 31, Number 16  
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## OPEN FORUM

## Dwarfed by power crisis

**T**he energy crisis is an overwhelming distraction among state leaders, leaving little time for other equally important legislative business. Instead of making difficult yet decisive decisions when they are needed, Governor Gray Davis has left legislators scrambling to figure out complex solutions to the problem at the expense of other issues.

With the state paying an average of \$73.2 million a day for power, the state budget is being drained to the extent that there will be no reserve in a matter of months. Since the major utilities fell into debt several months ago, the state has spent \$5.2 billion to keep the lights on – so far. Experts have warned that as summer approaches, rolling blackouts are likely, and should those start occurring on a regular basis, many businesses will feel the pinch in lost sales and lost productivity. We have already seen the economic effects of the power crisis during brief rolling blackouts that struck the Bay Area in January and again last month. With the recent bankruptcy filing by Pacific Gas & Electric Company, the future for consumers and businesses in terms of electric rates is further clouded, as no one knows what will happen to the giant utility.

Public education, once the cornerstone of Davis's platform, has taken a back seat to the energy crisis. Ever since Davis became governor, improving California's substandard public education system has been a primary goal. He wanted to be known as the governor who turned the state's schools around. His ambitious plan included reducing class sizes, and increasing spending to retain teachers and improve learning.

Another aspect of improving education, we believe, is implementing the recommendations made by a task force convened by state Superintendent of Public Instruction Delaine Eastin to study Assembly Bill 537, the California Student Safety Prevention Act of 2000 that was authored by Sheila Kuehl, an open lesbian who was in the Assembly and is now a state senator, and signed into law by Davis. Key in the law is the addition that all students and staff in public education facilities have the same right to a safe learning environment regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

While many of the recommendations

don't seem to cost a lot of money, others would involve legislative proposals to allocate funds for various proposals. Areas as basic as training for school employees in civil rights compliance and providing a permanent full-time staff position to assist school districts with AB 537 compliance requirements would require financial resources. Improving school curriculum to include the history of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender figures would cost money, as it isn't now in textbooks.

As Eastin correctly emphasized last week, "This isn't about sex. This is about preventing young people from being victims. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered students are at high risk. We must end that."

Gay students are pleased with the task force's recommendations, which if implemented, would go a long way toward reducing the taunting and name-calling that seem to be part of life for students.

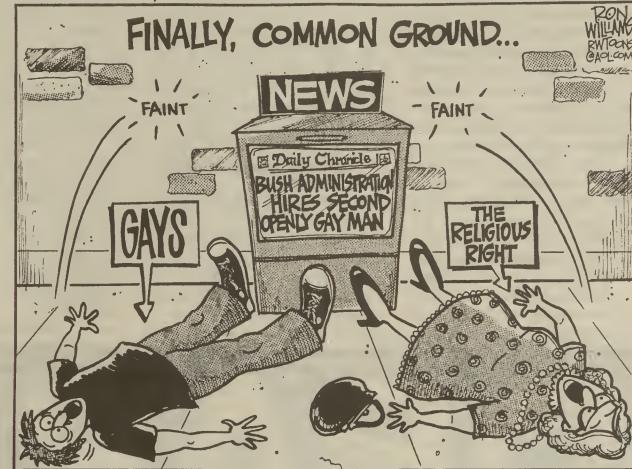
The problem is that Eastin's task force likely will receive little attention from lawmakers

as they continue to grapple with the power crisis, which has for several months dominated the agenda. Even worse, the combination of the economic slowdown (which in turn decreases the amount of incoming revenue to state coffers) and the state spending billions of dollars to buy electricity has left little money to fund anything else.

The other part of the problem is that with legislators spending virtually all of their time on issues related to energy, there isn't much time for discussion on the recommendations.

For now, at least, it looks like LGBT students will get short-changed. At a time when the state should be fully implementing AB537, there is now little, if any, money to make that happen. But LGBTQ kids aren't the only ones affected. Straight kids too could be learning ways to manage their teen angst without bullying and learning about the contributions LGBT people have made to society; most importantly, they could be learning about how California's diversity is its strength, not something to ridicule. ▀

## Editorial



## The redistricting mess

**by Elizabeth Toledo and Darren Rosenblum**

In almost every state capital across the United States, a process is unfolding that will help determine the composition of the next Congress as well as your state legislature and, in many cases, your school board and city council.

The process is secretive and, some would argue, arcane. Nonetheless, it will influence the amount of progress we in the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community are able to achieve in the coming decade.

We're talking about redistricting – the messy, political, and often partisan art of drawing new political boundaries to reflect population shifts. Redistricting takes place every 10 years, after the U.S. Census Bureau reports new population numbers to the states.

Historically, people shut out of power – people of color, language minorities, recent immigrants – have been discriminated against in the redistricting process. Either "packed" into a single voting district or split into a number of districts, the result is an inability to gain effective political representation.

Political parties and incumbent politicians again this year will try to use the redistricting process to their advantage – and there is no reason why GLBT people and progressives of all stripes cannot do likewise.

But first, we must insert ourselves as a community into a process that was never intended to be open to us or easy to understand. Only when we participate fully in the political process can we expect to achieve

the political power that is rightfully ours.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has issued a report entitled "Redistricting and the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Community: A Strategy Memo." This is meant to help local GLBT activists and our allies influence the redistricting process.

You probably know the principle behind redistricting – one person, one vote. But you may wonder, what does this have to do with you? Consider one statistic: Because of the number of revised congressional districts that will be drawn this year as well as the number of retirements that will follow the redistricting process, between 80 and 100 House seats are expected to be competitive in the year 2002 congressional elections.

Add to that the fact that the political party out of power picks up an average of several dozen seats during the first election following a change in political control of the White House, and you can see that the very real potential exists for a sea change in political control of the U.S. House of Representatives.

The new political lines that will be drawn are of paramount importance to the GLBT community as well as to people of color, recent immigrants to the U.S., and women. Will your new state and local districts be most likely to elect a conservative, a liberal, or a moderate? Will this elected official be someone who is friendly to progressive communities or hostile? Will the newly elected gay man or lesbian from your district find their incumbency threatened or

will they find it easier to win re-election in their new district?

NGLTF encourages GLBT activists to help create and maintain districts that will make city councils and school boards, state legislatures and the U.S. House of Representatives more representative of the racial, cultural, and gender diversity of the U.S. population. This is not only an ethical imperative; it is in our self-interest. The fact is that elected officials who are women, people of color, and members of other underrepresented populations traditionally have been among the GLBT community's staunchest allies. Although there are exceptions to this rule, consider this statistic: of the 59 Democratic members of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, fully one half are black or Latino.

## Guest Opinion

So what can you do?

The first step is to visit our Web site and download for free NGLTF's redistricting memo. The URL is [www.ngltf.org/downloads/redistrict.pdf](http://www.ngltf.org/downloads/redistrict.pdf).

The next step is to get involved. Hook up with other activists in your community and find out what is happening to ensure a fair and open redistricting process. Work with allies wherever you can find them – and if you can't find them, create your own.

Right now, in state capital after state capital, the process has begun. Too often we're expected to color inside the lines. This time, let's redraw them. ▀

Elizabeth Toledo is executive director of NGLTF. Darren Rosenblum is an attorney.

**What's Leno's position?**

The Board of Supervisors is currently considering legislation to bring tenancies-in-common, more affectionately known as TICs, under the condo conversion law. This proposal to protect tenants has been unfairly criticized by opponents claiming that many gay San Franciscans would lose their chance at the American dream of home ownership. This criticism is not only unfair to the legislation, but actually the opposite of what the legislation will do. As long as real estate speculators can evict tenants under the Ellis Act and sell off the units as de facto condos, they will continue to jack up the prices of the housing market. These inflated prices make it less and less likely that any of us in San Francisco will ever own a home here; currently 90 percent of San Franciscans can't afford to buy a place in the city. As much as I would like the security of owning a home and the luxury of reaping the financial benefits of doing so, I don't want my dream to be realized on the backs of tenants who were evicted. When we go to open houses of nice, empty places in the city, do we know what family was just forced out of town?

Clearly, the majority of the Supervisors support this legislation. Supervisor Mark Leno in District 8 is the only undecided voter. Given the importance of protecting gay men and women who rent apartments in the Castro and Noe Valley, I hope he'll choose to support the proposal.

Saskia Traill  
San Francisco

**Grand marshal election**

I regret that Cheryl Rosenthal (letters, April 12) found herself unable to vote in our grand marshal election. I am also puzzled by this. It was difficult to miss us at Castro and 18th. I myself was there together with several board members and other volunteers, a six foot banner, table, rainbow stickers, clipboards, and a foamcore display of pictures of the nominees and their bios (thanks to the B.A.R.) at the date and time publicized. Over 500 people cast their vote that day.

But the Pride Committee didn't just stop at 18th and Castro in their desire to have a community-wide election. The number of polling locations went from just two last year to over 12 this year, ballots were printed in both the *Bay Area Reporter* (which Ms. Rosenthal presumably reads) and the *Bay Times*. In addition ballots were available in the office at any time for anyone to come in and cast their vote. A trip to our Web site at [www.sfp pride.org](http://www.sfp pride.org) would have revealed a section, advising anyone interested, of the variety of ways in which they could vote.

This year's grand marshal balloting was the most inclusive and exhaustive poll to date. As a result, we appear to have received double the amount of ballots this year compared to last year. The results will be announced soon and those who head the poll will be, indisputably, the people's choice.

Teddy Witherington, Executive Director  
San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender  
Pride Celebration Committee Inc.,

**Harry Hay at 89**

The article on Harry Hay (at 89) by David Fraser ("Harry Hay warns gays to watch out for Bush," April 5) is good. But it doesn't mention the documentary that I thought was coming out soon on Hay. Did I miss something or are you holding that back for a big "opening" later?

But I think it should be pointed out that Harry, like most of the founders and pioneers of this movement/community who are still alive and active, did not quit when they got mad, and didn't look for another group or publication, and didn't get enough credit or get large enough salaries. Harry never has gotten a salary, as is the case with those of us at HIC, but our strength is that we stuck it out, even when we weren't sure we would win, as is true of the B.A.R.

Billy Glover, HIC  
Bossier City, Louisiana

**Track epidemic, not people**

We would like to acknowledge the supportive letter from Dr. James Dilley and the AIDS Health Project addressing the crisis facing anonymous testing in California (Mailstrom, April 12). We of the Stop HIV5 Committee at the Berkeley Free Clinic would like to thank Dr. Dilley and the UCSF AIDS Health Project, and to respond to our shared concerns on several counts.

For those readers unaware of HIV5, it is a new policy enabling the state of California to identify, and more inexcusably, track individuals who receive "anonymous" HIV testing or have contact with an outreach worker, by asking the client's date of birth, first initials, sex, ZIP code, and other data, and entering that information into local and statewide databases. These identifiers enable the linking of counseling and testing information with other databases and thereby eliminate anonymity from "anonymous" test-

ing.

As Dr. Dilley said, "these well-intentioned public health officials would like to develop more accurate ways of tracking the HIV epidemic," a statement we agree with. The tracking of anonymous test clients *without their knowledge or consent is unethical* and a violation of the contract between counselor and client.

At the Berkeley Free Clinic, the AIDS Health Project, and at other test sites and outreach programs throughout the state, two of our primary concerns have been the comfort of our clients and the maintenance of their trust. This trust has been established over the years largely by the assurance of completely anonymous HIV testing and outreach services. We fear that the state's new tracking policy will compromise this comfort and prevent honest communication with clients whose trust we have worked so hard to build and maintain. This trust is the basis for any success that an agency enjoys in harm reduction or outreach to the community it serves.

The state has chosen identifiers that can, in their own words, "enable linking anonymous counseling and testing information to other data sources," and they have every intention of doing just that. Why has the state chosen a system that can be used to identify and track people into and through almost every computerized database in the country? Is it truthful to maintain that anonymous testing is still anonymous in California? Why does it fall on counselors and outreach workers to warn clients not to answer specific questions if they wish to remain anonymous? Under this new system, anonymity is akin to playing the lottery. If you answer all the identifiers, demographics, and other questions, your chance of being truly anonymous sinks to nothing. The more identifiers you withhold the better your odds of winning anonymity. So what are the stakes for which the state is gambling, and if they lose, who actually pays up?

It's great when the state reassures us with the considerable efforts they go to in protecting our identities; that's what confidential testing is all about. Anonymous testing is when the client knows there is no way he or she can be identified. At the moment, the state is promising to protect our clients' identities. Such protections should be irrelevant in anonymous testing, since no information identifying the client should be collected in the first place. As soon as client-identifying information is collected, the test becomes confidential. In an anonymous test the client never has to wonder if they will be identified, because it is simply not possible.

The AIDS Health Project has implemented a system that is a big step in the right direction. They have limited their goals to internally eliminating duplicate tests (people who test more than once) and studying patterns of behavior associated with test results, counseling, and risk factors so that they can truly track the epidemic and not track people.

Jim Warhol  
Stop HIV5 Committee  
Berkeley Free Clinic

**Support treatment on demand**

I live near what I refer to as "crack alley" in San Francisco. The specific neighborhood doesn't matter. There are, I'm sure, many such alleys in San Francisco, Oakland, Los Angeles, New York, New Orleans, Atlanta, Chicago, and Detroit. Name a city and I'm certain that it has at least one. I am writing to ask the support of your readers for the Treatment on Demand Assistance Act. In California, 60 percent of drug treatment facilities that maintain a wait list (not all do) have an average of 23 people waiting for treatment. As an average, this number means that although some communities are meeting the demand for treatment, many more are falling far short of their population's need for comprehensive drug treatment programs that are available to everyone, anyone, and anytime. This is evidenced by societal "ills" most of us don't want to think about. The percentage of homeless people who are addicts, HIV infections linked to drug use, children born with developmental disabilities because of addicted moms, the huge numbers of women in prison because of drugs, and other day-to-day realities of real life survivors. Regardless of why they became addicted to their drug of choice, it doesn't take a genius to see the connections behind many of our urban woes and hard core drug addiction – the kind that quite literally grips one's body and soul – just look around. We are all affected by hard core drug abuse.

While some drug users are not seeking treatment, many others are. When they take the courageous first step of asking for help, it should be available immediately. For many, the fact that treatment isn't readily available on demand means they may never get there. The logistics of contacting someone when space becomes available is obviously complicated by homelessness and transience. Furthermore – regardless of socioeconomic status – by the time space becomes available, they might have lost their nerve, job, home, or life. Nationwide, an estimated 2.8 million Americans

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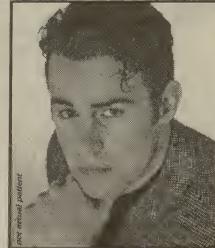
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## Mailstrom

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cans are in need of treatment for drug addiction.

Treatment on demand provides people immediate access to treatment at the time they decide to break the cycle of addiction. The Treatment on Demand Assistance Act recently introduced by Senator Barbara Boxer would double the federal government's funding for drug treatment over five years to a total of \$6 billion by 2006, twice as much as current funding. Furthermore, states that pass legislation similar to California's Proposition 36 which offers non-violent drug offenders a treatment alternative to prison, would qualify for special matching grants with which to pay for that treatment.

I'm sure that many will criticize this legislation. I can imagine some of the oppositions, "I'm tired of my taxes supporting junkies." "I want my tax cut." "It's only a Band-Aid solution and doesn't address the real problems." But it's a step. The Treatment on Demand Assistance Act is also far less expensive than the long term cost to our society of drugs that are both physically and psychologically destructive to those who abuse them long term. In this time of "compassionate conservatism" perhaps even the most right-wing Republicans will recognize that helping those they might see as hopeless does in fact help us all. Representative Cal Dooley has introduced a companion bill in the House. Please phone supportive and/or constructive comments to your senators and congressional representatives. Local and Washington, D.C. phone numbers can be easily located in the United States Government section of the blue pages of your local phone book. Look under "Congress."

Virg Parks  
San Francisco

## Good for business

I am so pleased that so many mainstream corporations are stepping up to the plate to help fund the completion of the LGBT Community Center [*"Donors launch final push of community center funding," April 5.*]

I remember when our community – even here in the Bay Area – did not have this kind of support from big business. It's a credit to the progress we've made and to responsible companies like American Express, AT&T, and others that they're now proving their commitment to our community with hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Community center board President Pat Martel is 100 percent right when she says we're their employees, shareholders, and customers. I only hope that every other company that does business in the Bay Area will follow their lead by giving to the community center and other important projects. Good companies understand that what's good for the LGBT community is good for business.

Katie Merrill  
Kensington, California

## Center will be hub

At Pacific Bell, we understand the importance of supporting and investing in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community. That's why we've contributed \$100,000 to the LGBT Community Center Project, and encouraged other donors to increase their giving with the Pacific Bell challenge grant. The range of programs and services that will be available at the center, once it opens, will make it a hub for LGBT people of all ages, incomes, and ethnic backgrounds.

Recently, I was proud to join other corporate leaders, who share our vision of creating a permanent home for San Francisco's LGBT community, in a hard hat tour. As a volunteer who spent many hours raising money for the center, this tour re-energized my commitment to the center and what it will mean to the city of San Francisco, its citizens, and visitors.

As we sprint toward "opening day," I hope that we can count on your participation and the participation of your readers in the final phase of the center's fundraising campaign.

We at Pacific Bell look forward to continuing our partnership with the center, its programs, and the LGBT community for years to come.

Zoon Nguyen, External Affairs Director  
Pacific Bell

## Lesbian caucus needed

Upon reading in Wayne Friday's April 5 column about the formation of an Asian/Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus in the Assembly now that there are three Asian American Assembly members, something occurred to me: why not form a lesbian and gay legislative caucus? We now have three open lesbian members of the Assembly so it would meet the standard for a minimum of three members. We could potentially have more in the future. The legislative caucus would allow for formal recognition from the Assembly and provide a think tank on legislation impacting the community. Other caucuses began small

when they first started and now have great influence and stature in Sacramento. Why not begin the same process now that we have three open lesbians in the Assembly?

Reese Aaron Isbell  
San Francisco

## Special assistants drain budget

Besides draining the city treasury (in the range of \$45 million), special assistants put at risk city programs that have been developed over years by hard-working, competent civil servants. The morale in some city departments has plummeted where special assistants have authority for which they are not suited. There needs to be a thorough and careful audit of all departments now using special assistants. If it is deemed necessary to hire special assistants temporarily then there should be a time limit. The practice as it now stands keeps this special category of employees in place for the duration of the mayor's term, belying the argument that these employees are temporary. The real worry is that these folks will stonewall anything effective the Board of Supervisors wants to accomplish should they manage to have their jobs classified as permanent. The present policies of the mayor will effectively be in control of the city for years – if not decades – to come.

Denise D'Anne  
San Francisco

## Thanks to 'paid activists'

I for one would like to thank the efforts of those "paid political activists" who are addressing the needs of renters in San Francisco. The issue is that "average" San Franciscans, many of whom are low-income persons, people of color, seniors, and PWAs, are being evicted so that the few people who can afford to pay the \$450,000-plus price tag that TICs often command can purchase housing. TICs are simply not affordable to the vast majority of San Franciscans.

The issue is not whether people who fight for the rights of tenants in this city are paid to do so, and for Mr. Ramm [Mailstrom, April 5] to insinuate that they are simply feeding at the public trough is ridiculous. The people at the Housing Rights Committee, like most activists who fight for and represent those with less money (and thereby, less voice), work long hours and are paid low wages in a city where the cost of living is higher than anywhere else in the state. As a San Francisco tenant and union representative (another "paid activist") I say thank you and keep fighting the good fight.

Erin Tyson Poh  
San Francisco

## New alternatives needed

The Tenant Associations Coalition of San Francisco has for several years now been deeply concerned about affordability for residents of San Francisco. We have embarked on reviewing many of the current housing plans such as Senior Action Network's two-bit campaign, Habitat for the Homeless, and the Homeownership for Tenants' proposal.

We do not think there is any one solution. Many years of dwindling federal housing funds, scandals amongst administrators of housing programs locally, and neglected property – causing loss of housing stock – are just a few dilemmas.

The community needs to seek new alternatives. We have developed new message boards to promote solutions, community input, news, and advocacy. One site is: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HousingAlternatives>. Another site for tenants is: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SanFranciscoTenants>

Let us hear your voice or just be informed.

Michael Nulty, Coordinator  
Tenant Associations Coalition of San Francisco

## Thirty, huh?

Here's my bald-ass prairie congrats [*"Crowd gathers to celebrate 30 years of the B.A.R., April 5."*] I buy the B.A.R. in Dallas at Crossroads Market and read it slowly till another one comes in, so am a week behind.

Regarding the Bush habit of using nicknames, it is a tradition in Texas and Southern enclaves. My dad's moniker was "R.L." (for real long). I was called "a little prick with ears."

How does George W. (Weasel) Bush sound? Will it stick? What about Dickless [sic] Cheney and Colon [sic] Powell? Careful there. Cut the colon. Stay hard.

Delbert Mathaney  
Fort Worth, Texas

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# Americans home safely; did Bush blink?

by Wayne Friday

I suspect that many of those watching the homecoming Saturday in Washington state of the 24-member EP-3 crew of the downed American spy plane fought back a tear or two as the young Americans raced across the tarmac at Whidbey Island Naval Air Station into the arms of their loved ones. Everyone safely at home and no real harm done, right? Not exactly. The American plane is still sitting on Hainan Island off of China and the next time an American gets a close look at the plane it may be sitting in a museum in Beijing, stripped of all the sophisticated spy equipment that went into the hands of the Chinese government.

All of the 24 Americans aboard the plane that was forced into a miraculous emergency landing on Chinese soil on April 1 are now safely back home. No lives lost. As for cold war possibilities, they're unlikely as long as we continue to pay upwards of \$300 a pair for tennis shoes being made in China. To be sure, diplomatic relations between the two countries have been damaged somewhat, but trade relations? Nope. Too damn much money to be made – on both sides. And who likes money better than Republicans? Although long before the spy plane incident, President George W. Bush was trying his best to appeal to the Republican right by suggesting he'd take a tougher line against China, the deeds – and words – during the 11-day standoff suggest something quite different.

Bush, Secretary of State Colin Powell, and ambassador to China Joseph Preher managed to find the "magic" phrases necessary to satisfy the Chinese and get our detainees home, and it can probably be said that Bush never really "apologized" as the Chinese government had demanded. But he might as well have. It went like this: the American government went from "regret" to "sorrow" to "sorry" to "very sorry," all in a few days. The Chinese had, of course, demanded a "full apology," some kind of an admission that America actually caused the accident and shouldn't have been spying at all in the seas off China. So, while China didn't get what Bush and administration officials call an "apology," they got the next best thing.

After initially declaring that there would be nothing like a formal apology, Bush (correctly) seemed more intent on getting the 24 Americans safely home, so Bush and Powell sent the Chinese two letters through the ambassador saying they were now "very sorry" not only for being involved in an air collision that resulted in the death of a Chinese pilot, but also "very sorry" for the American plane's emergency landing on Hainan Island without Chinese permission. Diplomacy, to be sure, but it sounds like a bit of groveling as well. Remember it went from "regret" to "sorrow" to "sorry" to "very sorry." It makes one wonder what happened to the hard-line Republican platform that Bush and Dick Cheney ran on last year while promising to bring "dignity"

back to America's foreign policy. Is this the stuff of the legacy of Ronald Reagan that Bush claims to be so proudly following? Can you say George McGovern?

## Politics and people

Big Bucks? I don't seriously worry that Dick and Lynne Cheney will be forced to float a loan to George W. and Laura Bush anytime soon, but the Bush family income for 2000 was certainly dwarfed by that of the Cheneys. The Supreme Court-appointed leader of the free world and his wife reported a net taxable income of \$744,682 for 2000 – chump change compared to the gross income of \$36 million the country's second family reported (and that doesn't include a sweet cash bonus of \$1,451,398 from Halliburton Company that Cheney received in January, a payment that the veep will have to include in his 2001 tax return). How sweet it is.

Here come

Da Judge(s): There are currently 89 vacancies on the federal bench and those right-wing Republicans in the U.S. Senate (such as Orrin Hatch) want no help from the American Bar Association in naming them. The GOP is seeking revenge for the 1987 Democratic-led rejection of Supreme Court nominee Robert Bork (four members of the ABA's 15-member standing committee found Bork "not qualified"), so most Bush judges will no doubt look like those favored by the segregated preserve of the Jesse Helms crowd, unless the Democrats in the 50-50 Senate get off their butts and fight it out against Bush, Hatch, Attorney General John Ashcroft and their hand-picked judicial appointments.

When Massachusetts swore in its lieutenant governor to the top job last week, Republican Jane Swift became the nation's youngest and the country's fifth female governor, but Swift, who's pregnant with twins and was involved in a scandal around day care services for her other child some time ago, is not expected to seek a full term next year in the heavily Democratic state.

California Controller Kathleen Connell's sorry fifth place finish in last week's Los Angeles mayoral election all but finishes her as a Democratic gubernatorial opponent to Gray Davis in the primary next March.

Meanwhile, gay and lesbian activists from both parties are reportedly lining up behind former Assembly Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa for the city's June 5 mayoral runoff election; Villaraigosa's gay and lesbian friends in San



Antonio Villaraigosa

Francisco can be expected to pitch in for him as well. Villaraigosa will face City Attorney Jim Hahn in the runoff; both are Democrats.

San Francisco Superior Court Judge Lillian Sing, thought to be the front-runner to succeed Assemblyman Kevin Shelley in the 12th Assembly District, has decided against the race next year because of health reasons.

Scott Evertz, the openly gay Republican from Wisconsin who was appointed by George W. Bush to serve as the next director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy, is already facing expected opposition from the GOP right. Republican conservatives like Gary Bauer and William Bennett can be expected to oppose this appointment. Evertz, a Roman Catholic, was an unsuccessful candidate for the Wisconsin state Legislature in 1994. He worked as a fundraiser in that state's right to life campaign, and has been a fundraiser for non-profit organizations throughout his professional career.

"I'm going to do what I can to accommodate the needs of these families," said U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft in Oklahoma last week, as he signaled that he will allow survivors of the Oklahoma City bombing and victims' relatives to witness the May 16 execution of the convicted bomber, Timothy McVeigh, via closed-circuit television in Oklahoma City. Hecks, why not let a national network (Fox would jump at this one) broadcast the execution, as McVeigh himself proposed? I'd pay to watch McVeigh, convicted of the worst domestic terrorism act in U.S. history, be put to death.

Okay, to my faithful, longtime readers (particularly you, Ron, of Reflections on Polk), this is my very last word on the subject; I realize some of those Florida newspapers are now smugly proclaiming that Bush did indeed win that state despite all the lingering evidence that the Bush brothers stole the state. Whether or not Bush could have taken Florida without the help of a 5-4 gift from the U.S. Supreme Court is not even the most disturbing issue of the Florida debacle. What's most troublesome is the issue of the disenfranchisement of thousands of working-class African American voters who were denied their right to vote in Jeb Bush's tightly controlled state. Bush Republican operatives in the Sunshine State used methods that included trickery by listing polling places in heavily African American areas that didn't even exist or were moved, and deceit, by preventing individuals from voting because they were thought to be felons, even though it was in fact a lie that could not be proven until it was too late. Black Democratic officials in Florida will tell you that enough of their voters were denied the right to vote in that state to easily have put Florida in the Al Gore column. Think of these tactics, along with the fact that Gore won the national popular vote by more than half a million votes and you wonder why Bush now acts as though he won some kind of mandate – even a landslide in his mind – when in fact, he not only lost the popular vote by spectacular numbers, but in truth, he also lost the state of Florida.

And I'll close with the "quote of

next page ▶

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# Tall tales of the truly transgendered

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

**B**ack in elementary school, there was a lot of peer pressure to be very clearly one of two genders. Growing up as a boy, it was drilled into me by my classmates that one could not, should not, run or throw "like a girl." Even how one crossed their legs came under scrutiny.

Yet, sandwiched between this push for gender purity came a number of curious myths. Things such as "if you kiss your elbow, you will turn into a girl," or "if you say the Lord's prayer backwards, you will become a boy." I got a sore arm on more than one occasion, and I've got more than a couple friends who also struggled to kiss their elbow, and learned quite a few prayers in reverse.

For that matter, every night before going to sleep, I would say a quick prayer. While I don't recall exactly what I used to say, I know that I would end it with a request to wake up the next day as a girl. I suppose one could say that my prayer was answered, just a couple decades later than I had hoped.

But all these myths and rituals go back much further than the playgrounds I grew up on.

An Eastern European belief dating back to at least the Middle Ages says that crossing under a rainbow will cause one's gender to change. I'll leave one to ponder what Dorothy may have really been asking for from the Wizard of Oz.

Indeed, mythology is rife with tales of a transgendered nature, from Hermaphrodites's intersexuality caused by the love of a water nymph and the magic of her fountain, to Jesus Christ telling his followers – in the apocryphal *Gospel of Thomas* – that one can only enter the kingdom of Heaven, "when you make male and female into a single one, so that the male will not be male nor the female be female."

Even the super-macho Hercules took on women's vestments during his trials, a tale missing from that extra-cute Disney ver-

sion. It might have made it a better film.

Many mythical beings and beasts are presented as a mixture of gender and sexes. The sphinx is portrayed as either male or female, or a combination of both. Angels, likewise, are often presented as a mixture of male and female, or as something beyond the earthly concepts of gender and sex.

On that last note, one cannot ignore the number of gender-variant deities, from the Great Goddess Cybele to Shiva's transgendered child/self, Ardhanarishvara.

And, as others like Leslie Feinberg have pointed out, the shamans of many past and present cultures have been individuals existing outside of standard-



## Transmissions

hanarishvara.

And, as others like Leslie Feinberg have pointed out, the shamans of many past and present cultures have been individuals existing outside of standard-

It also sets up a Catch-22, where if one were to deconstruct the "either/or" mentality, then going beyond that binary loses its importance. And it seems that there must be some importance to it, given that there are so many myths, and such a strong desire by many to preserve a gender binary.

At the very least, it must point to a level of extreme curiosity as to how the other half lives. I'm not sure how that ends up working out, but I do wonder how much of this mythological reverence for gender change can be reframed as some simple form of awe and curiosity.

But somewhere along the way, something changed. Gender conformity is still encouraged, but those who transcend gender are only revered on the pages of some of the sleazier Web sites. The curiosity remains – we have to account for Jerry Springer's ratings somehow – but the interest in

trans presentation is something to be downplayed and disavowed at all costs.

We even see variants of this in trans circles. Those who aren't opting to be perfectly normative men or women are dismissed as freaks, and are considered less important than those who are striving to be as "real" as possible – proudly cross-gendered sphinx need not apply. Reversed prayers have given way to surgeons and standards. It's that

schoolyard of my youth all over again.

Perhaps what these myths – as well as the desire to preserve a strong binary – are really pointing to is some human doubt of the permanence of gender. Maybe on some level we recognize that gender might well be made of gossamer and faerie dust, rather than much stronger stuff. Indeed, perhaps the existence of this "binary gender" is the biggest myth of all.

Maybe we need not go through the trouble of kissing our elbows to reach into our own transgendered divinity, but need only look beyond something as simple as "throwing like a girl."

**Gwen Smith** has only once crossed a rainbow, and is sure something happened to her when she did that. You can find her on the Web at [www.gwen-smith.com](http://www.gwen-smith.com) or in *Gay.com's "Transgender Gazebo."*

diverse society. But if he mentions them, he should also mention gays and lesbians. As he advocates increases in medical research to fight cancer, he should also mention the fight against HIV/AIDS. When he calls for justice to fight racism and racial profiling, he should also call for justice to fight hate crimes and job discrimination. He should do so not in ways that politically pander to our group, but he should do so because a president's words matter; they will especially matter to Republican lawmakers who prefer the good attitudes of a nation's people over the legislative acts of its government.

And how was your week? ▼

## Our Man Friday

◀ previous page

the week" from yet another Republican, openly gay former Wisconsin Representative **Steve Gunderson**, who wrote an op-ed piece in the April 24 issue of the *Advocate*, commenting about Bush's absence of any reference to gays, lesbians, or the fight against bigotry and hatred during his January address to Congress. Gunderson: "I don't need Bush to mention gays and lesbians any more than he mentions African Americans, Hispanics, women, the disabled, farmers, or any other segment of our

# Defying left and right

by Dale Carpenter

**R**eligious conservatives instinctively understand the damage George W. Bush is inflicting on the dying and discredited anti-gay aspects of their world-view. By appointing Scott Evertz, an openly gay man, to head the White House Office of National AIDS Policy, Bush has crossed an important political and cultural threshold. Incredibly, some gay leaders and writers – who once predicted Bush would never hire an openly gay person – have missed the significance of this moment.

Just as it took a scion of wealth to bring us a New Deal, a Southerner to end segregation, an ardent anti-Communist to open diplomatic relations with China, and a Democrat to end welfare as we knew it, it will take a conservative Republican to cement the gains made by the gay civil rights movement over the years. Bush's action both reflects and reinforces the emerging national consensus that gays should have an equal place in the life of the nation.

Evertz becomes the first openly gay person ever appointed by a Republican president. He also becomes the first gay person to lead the federal AIDS office. Either of these alone would be significant; together, they are a watershed.

The appointment not only proves Bush's oft-professed willingness to hire people regardless of sexual orientation, but it also signals the importance he places on combating AIDS. Just before the Evertz appointment, Vice President Dick Cheney said on NBC's *Meet the Press* that AIDS is a national security issue. When Republicans call something a matter of national security, you know we mean business.

Evertz will report directly to Margaret La Montagne, Bush's domestic policy adviser, which means he will have access to the highest levels of decision-making in the White House. He will also be part of a task force of heavy-hitters – including Secretary of



State Colin Powell and gay-friendly Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson – who will address the long-ignored international aspects of the AIDS epidemic.

It's instructive to review the reaction of some gay politicos who toiled mightily to find fault with Bush despite the appointment. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the organizational embodiment of the gay left in Washington, conceded it was "an historic, positive step," but devoted more than half of its press release on the subject to criticism of Bush's proposed budget freezing or barely increasing some elements of federal AIDS funding. This reaction was predictable.

Far more disappointing was the response of the Human Rights Campaign, usually a more sensible and centrist voice for gays in Washington. HRC spokesperson David Smith pooh-poohed the appointment of Evertz, comparing it with the 152 openly gay appointees under Bill Clinton.

Yet none of the Clinton appointees served in a position more critical to gays than the one Evertz will hold. Few, if any, of Clinton's gay appointees had the direct access to the White House that Evertz will have. Personally, I'd rather have one openly gay person serving as the AIDS czar than a hundred appointees under Clinton, the most important of whom labored over patents, housing, and relations with the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

The most tortured reaction from the left criticized the appointment because it supposedly represents – I love this – *identity politics*. Thus, *Queer in America* author Michelangelo Signorile, whose career has skillfully exploited identity politics, has suddenly found Jesus on the issue: "[T]here are pitfalls and limitations to identity-based politics," he announced in a column, "and we're about to find out the hard way."

Similarly, a board member for the Milwaukee gay community center worried the appointment

would reinforce stereotypes about gay men: "I almost would have rather heard that a woman was heading [the AIDS office]."

Never mind that many of the country's top experts on AIDS are gay men (who are still disproportionately afflicted by the disease) and that not one of Clinton's three appointees to the position was gay. For people like Signorile, Bush is damned if he does and damned if he doesn't.

Religious conservatives have a far better grasp of what's happening now on gay issues in the GOP. They were furious at news of the Evertz appointment and became downright apoplectic when it was learned, just days later, that Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld had hired another openly gay man to screen applicants for jobs in the Defense Department.

James Dobson, an influential evangelical leader, charged that Bush is "creating confusion and frustration for millions of pro-family, social conservatives." The Family Research Council complained that the appointment "sends the wrong message [about homosexuality] to the American people." Lou Sheldon of the Traditional Values Coalition indicted the Bush administration for being "absolutely disloyal" to religious conservatives and for "stab[bing] us in the back." Robert Knight, on behalf of Concerned Women for America, accused Bush of "advancing the homosexual agenda through appointments."

The most noteworthy reaction on the right came from Republican leaders in Congress, who said ... nothing. Knee-jerk homophobes in the GOP today, like hold-out segregationist Democrats in the 1960s, are increasingly isolated politically.

When the history of the gay civil rights movement is written, the spring of 2001 will mark an important season of consolidation. It was then, the history will say, that a Republican president finally had the courage to defy the anti-gay rogues in his own party. Though such progress is reversible, Bush, cautiously but perceptibly, is truly "advancing the homosexual agenda," which is, after all, about nothing more than equality. ▼

## Anti-LGBT

◀ page 1

race and/or ethnicity, most were white. Of the victims identified by gender and sexual orientation, most were gay men, with lesbians placing second, and transgenders coming in third. In short, no one group was immune to systemic violence.

### SF stats

Statistics for San Francisco show similarly disturbing trends, like a 400 percent increase in attacks involving 10 or more offenders, and a 35 percent increase in the use of weapons during anti-LGBT assaults. Incidents where landlords or neighbors were the perpetrators grew by 300 percent, and 70 percent of all incidents involved ongoing harassment and intimidation. In half of the incidents against transgenders, the perpetrators were police officers. Overall, more LGBT people were assaulted in San Francisco in 2000 than any year since 1996. Attacks also increased in the greater Bay Area, a trend CUAV blames on the continuing gentrification of San Francisco; while wealthy real es-

tate forces may defend evictions, they can't call them pro-gay if it means gays and lesbians are forced outside the city to become easier targets for attacks.

Specific incidents reported in San Francisco totaled 271 for the year 2000; remember, this number only includes what people have reported, a conservative estimate at best. Of these incidents, 65 occurred in the Tenderloin. The Mission and South of Market accounted for 42 incidents each. The Castro ran fourth in popularity for gay bashing, with 26 incidents. Hayes Valley and Western Addition had 21 incidents, and the Haight and the Polk each had 11 such reports. Most of these incidents – 145 of them – were assaults, and most of these assaults – 138 of them – did not involve weapons. However, the use of weapons during assaults increased by 33 percent, for a total of 42 incidents.

Local recommendations, according to CUAV, include the following: programs to combat homophobia and transphobia in the schools; police training around gender identity issues; and the elimination of the "homosexual panic" defense from courtrooms. ▼

State Colin Powell and gay-friendly Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson – who will address the long-ignored international aspects of the AIDS epidemic.

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Dale Carpenter, a law professor, is the winner of three Vice Versa awards for excellence in gay writing. He can be reached at OutRight@aol.com.

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# Choose your friends wisely

by Jane Warner

**2** 397 Market, April 13, 4:45 p.m.: Paramedics responded to a report of a man passed out inside the pay toilet at Market and Castro. When they arrived, they found the 45-year-old victim on the ground with a syringe stuck in his neck. Emergency personnel tried to revive him, but the man was pronounced dead at the scene. Friends told responding police officers that the victim had

been drinking all day and had gone into the bathroom to shoot some heroin with three other people. The group left the man inside after he "nodded off." After about an hour, a passing citizen discovered him and called 911.

## Reacquainted

200 block of Diamond, April 9, 12:30 a.m.: A man walking on Di-



## Crime & Punishment

on Diamond Street near 18th stopped to say hello to a man sitting on some stairs. Without provocation, the man ran down the stairs and attacked the victim, calling him "faggot" and kicking him several times. The victim reached for his cell phone and dialed 911, prompting the suspect to flee southbound on Diamond Street. Responding officers found the assailant walking near 19th and Castro and placed him under arrest. A computer check revealed the 32-year-old suspect had five outstanding warrants for his arrest. The man was taken to Mission Station and booked accordingly. Bail was set at \$40,000.

## Cover up

*Castro at 19th, April 14, noon:* A man who had double parked on Castro Street was about to pull into traffic when a van trying to parallel park scraped the passenger side of his car. The man got out and confronted the van driver, who offered some expensive rugs in lieu of payment for the damage to his car. The suspect opened the back of his van and showed the driver numerous oriental rugs which he said were stolen, telling him to pick a few. The man declined the offer and called 911 on his cell phone, telling the suspect he was only calling Triple-A. The suspect became suspicious and started walking northbound on

Castro, leaving his van at the scene. Responding officers searched the area but were unable to find the suspect. Inside the van they found 12 rugs and a rental agreement with Avis. The van was towed from the scene and held for further investigation.

## Access denied

3600 block of 18th, April 12, 4:30 p.m.: Arriving home from work, a woman noticed a flower vase had been moved from on top of her kitchen table. Alarmed, the woman searched her house and discovered a Yamaha electronic keyboard missing and a window

in the garage pried open. Underneath the window inside the garage were several tools including an ice pick. Responding police officers searched the area with no results, but surmised that the woman had probably interrupted a burglary in progress, and that her coming home had led to the robber's fleeing before too much was stolen. ▼

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## Twists continue in mauling case; benefit for Whipple foundation Sunday

by Ed Walsh

**A**s the investigation into the dog mauling of Diane Whipple continues in a string of unexpected twists and turns, Whipple's friends and supporters are rallying support in her memory.

A benefit concert hosted by Three Hour Tour is scheduled for this Sunday, April 22, to help raise money in support of the Diane Alexis Whipple Foundation. It begins at 2:30 p.m. and will be held at Kimo's Nightclub at Polk and Pine streets.

The \$5 admission fee goes directly to the foundation. Organizers say larger donations will be appreciated and envelopes will be provided for those who prefer to send a check in later.

Whipple's family and her partner, Sharon Smith, direct the foundation. They plan to spend the foundation money to support school athletics, something that had been a passion of Whipple's, who was the head coach for St. Mary's College lacrosse team. Whipple's mother, Pamela Whipple-Kelly, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that she would also like to see some of the foundation's money be used to support efforts to improve laws against dangerous animals so that a similar tragedy could be prevented.

Meanwhile, the surprises continue in the case against Robert Noel and Marjorie Knoller, the caretakers of the two dogs involved in the deadly January 26 attack.

Last week, George Walker, the well-respected attorney who had been representing Noel and Knoller, announced he was leaving the case because it would have been too costly to investigate. The case was turned over to the San Francisco Public Defender's office.

News for the attorney couple only went downhill from there.

Moving trucks showed up last Thursday to clear out their apartment. The couple had been threatened with eviction for failing to



Diane Alexis Whipple

pay rent. While still in jail, they decided to move out rather than fight to stay in the building, the scene of the horrific attack on Whipple.

Apparently, little love is lost between the couple and other tenants in the building. San Francisco Police confirmed last week that Knoller's car continues to be vandalized while it remains parked in the building's garage. Damage includes spray paint and flattened tires.

Hopes that the couple had of coming up with their combined bail of \$3 million stalled last week. The owner of a San Jose bail bonds company told reporters he planned on bailing the couple out but he was waiting for approval from his insurance company.

The couple appeared briefly in court last Friday for an arraignment that was attended by Smith and other Whipple supporters, including some members of Whipple's lacrosse team.

The arraignment was postponed until April 25 at the request of the couple's new lawyer who said she needed more time to go over the stacks of documents related to the case. ▼

**Tax-deductible donations to the foundation can be mailed to: the Diane Alexis Whipple Foundation, 2443 Fillmore Street, Box 432, San Francisco, CA 94115.**



# Frank, Matsui voice post-election concerns in Sacramento

*Congressmen fear Democrats may become 'permanent minority party'*

by Dan Aiello

**A**t a luncheon sponsored by the California Capitol Political Action Committee at Sacramento's Radisson Hotel April 10, Congressmen Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts) and Robert Matsui (D-California), warned the LGBT community that the loss of the White House and current lack of discipline by ranking House and Senate Democrats may lead the party into a permanent minority status in Washington, D.C.

Frank's harshest criticism was directed at Democratic leaders for what he called "lack of fire in the belly" during last year's election. "The Republicans just wanted it more," said Frank. Matsui concurred, citing the well organized Republican mobs sent down by the Republican National Committee from Washington to Florida to create the image of an uprising on national television. "There was nothing like that from the Democratic camp," Matsui said.

Matsui, a Sacramento representative, agreed with Frank's assessment of a "lack of fire" within Democratic ranks, saying the 2002 congressional elections will be tough for the Democrats. "Republicans seem to want to be in charge more than we do. I'm concerned about whether or not we will become a permanent minority party, psychologically."

Although Frank didn't mention House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt or Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle by name, he complained that "the current Democratic leaders impose no discipline" on the Hill when votes are cast. "You can be sure that [Republican Congressman Tom] DeLay and Senator [Trent] Lott impose discipline," he said.

The two lawmakers explained that despite an evenly divided Senate and a closely divided



Congressman Barney Frank

House, "the Republican majorities mean they control every committee and the national agenda," said Matsui. As a result, the Democrats have little influence in the nation's capital.

When asked by an audience member what he thought of the Log Cabin Republicans, Frank replied, "I think they legitimize right-wing organizations and help put those who will never vote with them in power. Ultimately, Log Cabin Republicans are self-defeating."

#### Gays should be partisan

Frank used the Log Cabin issue to question CCPAC's stance as a nonpartisan organization. Frank said it was all right to look at things in a nonpartisan way, but the congressman felt it is a betrayal for gays and lesbians not to support the Democratic Party just because some Republicans no longer officially oppose equal rights for gays and lesbians. "It's true Republicans, in their national party platform, don't gay-bash anymore, and that's a hopeful sign," said Frank. "But if you ask me whether or not a certain elected official is supportive of our community, I'll ask you which

party they're with. If they're a Democrat there's a 98 percent chance they vote with us; if they're Republican, the reverse is true."

Frank said that while Republicans don't attack gays as openly anymore, they still work behind the scenes to prevent gay issues from reaching the floor. "We could pass ENDA [Employment Non-discrimination Act] and hate crimes legislation today if they came up for a vote, but DeLay won't let that happen and hasn't let it happen for two years," he said.

"What's happened so far doesn't support nonpartisanship" from the gay and lesbian community, noted Frank. "I urge partisanship right now. Hopefully it will just be a temporary measure. We have a right in this country today to be intolerant of intolerance." Frank, who believes the Republican Party is still intolerant of homosexuals, said that to support any Republican now is to essentially be bought for too cheap a price. "John McCain, by the way, has a zero voting record on LGBT issues which makes it funny that Bush gay-baited him during the campaign."

Frank also reminded the audience that Bush is no friend of hate crimes legislation. During the

election, Bush was feeling heat for not supporting a Texas hate crimes bill following the dragging-death of an African American, James Byrd, by white supremacists in that state. "The Bush people approached the Byrd family and offered to support legislation that included race but excluded sexual orientation. To their great credit, the Byrd family said 'no,'" explained Frank.

"He's not stupid," said Frank of the new president, "he's just uninformed. And that's because it appears he's amazingly uninformed in the issues." Frank believes that Bush is convinced his father's loss to Bill Clinton was the result of a right-wing revolt in the Republican Party. Because of this, "the right wing wins every debate" within the current administration, he said.

The debate over Bush's current budget, said Frank, "is not about a fight over people's needs versus public needs. There clearly is a need to address both. But what the Bush budget will do is deny us the ability to work together to solve issues that affect us all."

Frank also believes that the Bush White House is playing politics with California's energy crisis, and may actually be pleased with the state's energy problems. "First, it really does damage your

Democratic governor, according to the latest polls," said Frank. "Second, he really wants to open up Alaska to further oil and gas production. It makes sense from his perspective to do what he's doing." Frank added that there exists a federal mandate requiring federal regulators to "ensure that only reasonable profits are made" by utility companies. Bush has apparently chosen not to enforce that at this time, he said.

Earlier during the program, Frank said that gay and lesbian Americans must be concerned not just for issues affecting their community, but for everyone. "Shame on us if we don't stand up against discrimination in any form," Frank said, explaining that the best voting record for gay and lesbian rights measures consistently comes from the Congressional Black Caucus. Frank added that, "no moral case can be made that pushes for drugs for AIDS and not for other diseases."

Matsui also implored the nonpartisan group not to hold Democrats and Republicans to separate standards. "You'd hold me accountable, and you should, if I were to vote against [a bill supporting LGBT rights]. Why should someone right or right-of-center get a free pass just because they aren't attacking you?" ▼



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## Cal's queer days

◀ page 3

will speak at 8 p.m. in Anderson Auditorium at the Haas School of Business.

### Other events

Among the many featured events at Berkeley's Queer Awareness Days:

• *Black is Black Ain't*, a video presentation and discussion. The groundbreaking documentary, the last one by the late filmmaker Marlon Riggs, is "an eloquent visual testimony on perceptions and experiences of complexion, class, gender, speech and sexuality in the African American community." Tuesday, April 24, noon-2pm, Section Club Room, First Floor, Tang Center.

• *Call to Witness*, a documentary by local filmmaker Pam Whalton that "goes beyond the angry rhetoric to paint a compelling picture of the Lutheran Church and its struggle to come to terms with its gay and lesbian members." Friday, April 20, 1 p.m., Gender and Equity Resource Center Reading Room, 212 Cesar Chavez Center.

A full calendar of events can be viewed at <http://queer.berkeley.edu/calendar/>

### Ally roundtables

Irene Nekcica, coordinator of the LGBT services office at the university, told the B.A.R. that QAD also features roundtables under the "Ally" program which began this semester.

Modeled on a University of Michigan model, the program, Nekcica said, "is basically 'Ally 101.' It's designed for people who are not necessarily queer or LGBT-identified but who want to be an ally" for their queer classmates and colleagues.

These student discussions will cover a range of topics from homophobia and gender divisions to agism to body types to polyamory to clubs and drugs to HIV and AIDS. ▼

For more information, and/or disability accommodations, call (510) 643-0788, or e-mail [irene\\_n@uclink.berkeley.edu](mailto:irene_n@uclink.berkeley.edu). For TTD, the number is (510) 642-6778. The LGBT services office Web site is [advising.berkeley.edu/sas/lgbt/](http://advising.berkeley.edu/sas/lgbt/)

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# AIDS advocates to protest FTAA

by Liz Highleyman

**T**his weekend, April 20-22, an estimated 10,000 demonstrators are expected to converge on Quebec City, Canada to protest the Summit of the Americas meeting that will bring together the heads of 34 Western Hemisphere nations with the exception of Cuba.

Topping the agenda will be discussion of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) agreement which, if passed, would extend trade rules similar to those of the North American Free Trade Agreement throughout the hemisphere. FTAA opponents claim such an agreement would favor corporations at the expense of social services, working people, and the environment. Canada is preparing for the protests by mounting the largest security operation in the country's history.

Although the draft text of the FTAA agreement has not been released to the public, it is expected that the agreement will include restrictions limiting the production of low-cost generic equivalents of patented drugs. Advocates for drug access will take part in the protests in Quebec City, and several groups have already begun to hold actions calling attention to the issue.

On April 12, as 20 supporters gathered outside, six advocates for AIDS drug access met with members of the Brazilian Consulate in downtown San Francisco. The activists — representing ACT UP/East Bay, Global Exchange, the International Forum on Globalization, the Black Coalition on AIDS, and the HealthGAP Coalition — expressed their support for Brazil's national AIDS care program. The country provides treatment at low or no cost for all Brazilians with AIDS, and has succeeded in reducing AIDS deaths by 50 percent. Such a program is possible because Brazil locally manufactures inexpensive versions of patented anti-HIV drugs, a practice that has pitted the country against global pharmaceutical companies and the governments of developed nations including the U.S.

Brazil currently manufactures generic equivalents of eight AIDS drugs, and has declared its intention to produce more — including nelfinavir and efavirenz — if drug companies do not reduce their prices to affordable levels.

Protest organizers said the action was a "positive show of support" for Brazil's success in combating AIDS despite legal pressure from U.S. trade officials and pharmaceutical companies. The Bay Area delegation applauded Brazil "for its commitment to placing the health and well-being of its people above the economic interests of outside multinational corporations seeking to profit from the AIDS pandemic." The action was also a protest against Merck and 38 other global pharmaceutical companies that are suing the

South African government over a law that permits local production of generic drugs; the lawsuit was scheduled to resume on April 18.

According to John Iversen of ACT UP/East Bay, who attended last Thursday's meeting, the consulate staff members were "very friendly" and came outside to shake the hands of demonstrators and thank them for their support.

On the other side of the country on the same day, over 500 activists held a spirited protest outside the Washington, D.C., office of U.S. Trade Representative

union members, environmentalists, and students. While police sources said there was some "jostling" between activists and officers, there were no reported arrests or injuries.

FTAA opponents claim that the agreement will increase patent protections and make it harder for poor countries to access life-saving drugs. The current WTO trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights (TRIPS) agreement contains provisions for compulsory licensing and parallel importing, which allow poor countries facing a national med-

**"We're sending off Robert Zoellick and the trade negotiators with the understanding that there is a price to pay if they interfere with poor countries that are manufacturing AIDS drugs."**

Robert Zoellick. The demonstration was billed as a "going away party" for both activists and government trade negotiators headed to Quebec. According to Paul Davis of ACT UP/Philadelphia, "We're sending off Robert Zoellick and the trade negotiators with the understanding that there is a price to pay if they interfere with poor countries that are manufacturing AIDS drugs."

Added fellow ACT UP member John Bell, "This trade pact threatens the rights of HIV-positive people in impoverished nations to obtain the medicine they need to survive. The health and survival of people in North and South America must be put before the commercial interests of the pharmaceutical industry."

Mirroring the coalition that came together to oppose a meeting of the World Trade Organization in November 1999, the Washington, D.C. protest included AIDS and healthcare activists,

ical emergency to manufacture generic versions of patented drugs or to import drugs from the cheapest global source. At a pre-summit meeting in Buenos Aires recently, the U.S. proposed extending patents beyond their current 20-year life span, restricting the use of clinical trial data, and limiting compulsory licensing. The FTAA agreement could also give drug companies the right to sue governments that interfere with their ability to profit from patented drugs, and could promote the privatization of public health services.

Activists said they plan more protests soon against trade policies that limit access to affordable drugs. Said ACT UP/Philadelphia's Brenda Wheeler, "Robert Zoellick can be certain to find thousands of people with AIDS and their allies in his face until he takes every possible step to protect poor countries' efforts to increase access to medicine." ▼

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## TIC battle

◀ page 1

Daly, would limit the number of TIC conversions just as the city limits condominiums. Most TIC owners eventually apply for condominium status because TICs are not an ideal way to own property. Therefore, TICs in effect create a "loophole" whereby condo owners can occupy their property before it officially becomes what they wanted in the first place. In the interim, residents who lived in the TIC when it was a rental unit are immediately displaced for the sake of a quick profit.

Avicoli Mecca and others called for Leno's support of Daly's TIC legislation because most Ellis Act evictions occur in buildings that are quickly vacated and sold for enormous profits, unregulated by the city's current condominium conversion laws. Adding TICs to the condominium conversion limits would remove the incentive to immediately evict residents to make a building more marketable.

"Because tenants are evicted before prospective buyers even walk into the place, most TIC owners don't even know that they're moving into a place available only because someone was evicted," Avicoli Mecca told the

## B.A.R.

Leno is considered by many to be the swing vote on the TIC legislation. He told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he would remain undecided until all the revisions on the proposed bill are finalized.

"I'm meeting with folks representing all sides of the issue and will continue to do so," said Leno. "I can tell you I think what we all agree on is that we want to protect tenants from eviction and protect their rights to become homeowners; we want to be respectful of small property owners, and we want to prohibit speculators from causing displacement. How do we do that is the question."

There are, of course, those who disagree with Daly's legislation. Some opponents believe that TICs are the only way for them to achieve their "dream of home ownership." But TICs have their downside: one neighbor defaulting on his/her mortgage means it's the other dwellers in the building who must pick up the slack. In short, TIC owners are not buying a unit; they're buying a fraction of an entire building for which they are responsible in full.

Other opponents are those who can afford the average \$416,000 TIC unit; there is a prevalent message from the real estate industry that TICs are the

only way to protect affordable housing. This message is false, according to tenant activists, who point to numbers from the Association of Realtors — the same organization that toute TICs as affordable — that show only 11 percent of San Franciscans can afford the average cost of such a home. But this message is also disturbing, said Avicoli Mecca, pointing out that most TICs on the market mean that a resident or an entire family has lost a home.

"I don't believe for a second that this is the only way for people to buy a piece of property. And if this is 'the only way to own a home,' then we should be fighting for ways to become home owners that do not involve evicting people," said Avicoli Mecca. "If the only way for people to become home owners is on the backs of seniors and working people, then something is very wrong with the way we do housing in this city."

Meanwhile, an action entitled, "March Against Eviction Profiteers and Global Displacement" is scheduled for 4 p.m. this Friday, April 20. It is being sponsored by the Mission Anti-Displacement Coalition, Just Act, and the Coalition to Stop the Free Trade Area of the Americas. The march will begin to assemble at 3:30 at Powell and Market streets. ▼

# Gay at the Pentagon irks right wingers

by Bob Roehr

For right social conservatives were apoplectic upon learning that the Bush administration has an openly gay person working in the Pentagon. The discovery first appeared last Tuesday, April 10, in the online version of *Human Events* and was repeated two days later by the *Washington Times*.

Stephen E. Herbits is serving as a consultant and special assistant to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. He is screening job applications to fill political positions within the defense agency. A Pentagon spokesman confirmed Herbits's employment but in keeping with administration policy, said that sexual orientation was irrelevant and would not discuss it.

Herbits, 59, has often passed through the revolving door of government service and the private sector. His government service began when he was still a law student at Georgetown University and served on the President's Commission on an All-Volunteer Armed Force. He also worked on the staff of the U.S. Senate.

Herbits served five secretaries of defense, including Rumsfeld during his first tenure in that office. He later returned to work with Dick Cheney, now vice president. Another Cheney assistant, press spokesman Pete Williams, was "outed" by gay activists during that period.

In the private sector, Herbits was a senior executive with the Seagram Company, a large multinational alcoholic beverage firm. He later worked with Window Communications, whose parent company recently bought the gay newspapers the *Washington Blade*

and its sister publication, the *New York Blade News*.

Herbits's community ties include serving on the governing boards of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, the National Leadership Coalition on AIDS, and as chair of the AIDS Action Council.

The conservative right was shocked that a "homosexual activist" should be in any position whatsoever, let alone such an important one, within the Bush administration.

**"Their reaction shows their true colors – no jobs for gay Americans."**

"It appears that they [leaders of the Bush administration] are trying to become the bisexual administration. They are trying to have it both ways," Robert Knight, of the Culture and Family Institute, told the *Washington Times*.

The Family Research Council's resident homophobe, Robert Maginnis, feared that Herbits would screen out anti-gay candidates to staff the Pentagon.

The Traditional Values Coalition's Lou Sheldon said, "Herbits's appointment sends a message to Congress that the Defense Department openly supports homosexuals in the military, despite the congressional ban."

"Obviously, the right wing feels that good people should be disqualified simply due to their sexual orientation," said Joel Lawson. He is a public relations consultant with the Lawson Group who worked with Herbits at Window Communications.

"For years, their rallying cry has been, 'no special rights,'" he said.

"Well, their reaction to Herbits shows their true colors – no jobs for gay Americans. They are proactively discriminatory, on a jihad."

Steve Ralls, spokesman for the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, viewed Herbits's employment as "a positive sign" from the administration that sexual orientation was not an issue in civilian employment with the military. He did not know if Herbits's assignment was temporary or would lead to a senior level position at the Pentagon.

## Summit participants upset Frank, Baldwin

by Bob Roehr

Two vocal homophobes, the Reverend Lou Sheldon of the Traditional Values Coalition and former pro football player the Reverend Reggie White, have been named as participants in a congressional Republican faith-based leadership summit that will take place on April 24-25. House Republican Conference Committee chair Representative J.C. Watts Jr. (Oklahoma) made the announcement on April 10.

The meeting is to "explore public/private partnerships and models of faith-based community renewal initiatives." Similar meetings, organized by both parties as well as bipartisan issue caucuses, occur frequently on the Hill.

The announcement prompted an April 16 letter to Watts from Representatives Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts) and Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisconsin). In it the pair outlined the anti-gay records of Sheldon and White and "respectfully ask[ed] Watts to reconsider your decision to include in your advisory group people who have been so willing to foster hatred against us personally, and millions of others as well."

They acknowledged that Sheldon and White "are obviously entitled to their opinions, and the First Amendment gives them a right to propagate them." But the representatives still thought that "a record of bigoted attacks" should preclude the duo from being invited to the meeting.

It was an eerie echo of arguments used by Sheldon and other

social conservatives to oppose gays and lesbians. They maintain that "sinful" behavior should preclude gays and lesbians from appointments such as that of Scott Evertz to head up the Office of National AIDS Policy.

Frank and Baldwin also sent a copy of the letter to Rich Tafel, executive director of Log Cabin Republicans, asking him to "join us in trying to persuade Representative Watts to reverse this decision."

"The fact that I read Barney's request on the Internet before I received his letter indicates to me that he is more interested in press than in resolving the issue," said Tafel. "If a congressman really cares about something they speak privately with the other congressman, they don't issue a press release." Tafel said they would raise the matter with Watts. ▼

## Use the Internet to learn more about HIV

by Cynthia Laird

Science and research around HIV are evolving and there is always room to learn more about finding medical information on the Internet. A free class this Wednesday, April 25, in San Francisco, will focus on improving Internet search skills relative to

HIV information and interested people are encouraged to sign up.

The class takes place from 7 to 8:15 p.m. and will focus on tips to finding up-to-date HIV-related information via the Internet. Learn where to find the latest in alternative medicine, confidentially issues, clinical trials, and more. No computer is necessary.

Through a grant from the Na-

tional Network of Libraries of Medicine, the Community Health Resource Center has been able to offer these computer classes to different age groups or common health concerns. The class is facilitated by librarians from the California Pacific Medical Center Health Sciences Library and will meet in the auditorium at the Davies campus of CPMC. To register, call (415) 923-3155. ▼

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# Time to throw out *Poz*

by Jeff Getty, Survive AIDS Writers Pool

Many PWAs get *Poz* magazine in their mail. They don't pay for it. Yet it just keeps coming every month – for free. Who pays for it you may wonder? You do, every time you buy HIV medicines or pay your health insurance premiums. *Poz* magazine is mailed to our homes free of charge, because drug companies pay to have their advertisements sent directly into our living rooms and doctor's waiting rooms. The cost of such mailings is paid out of the excessive profits made from overpriced HIV meds. Now we are learning that these advertisements are potentially harmful because they may lead to unsafe sex and because they may encourage patients to demand treatments that are often not appropriate. But the editors and owners of *Poz* are too busy filling their bank accounts with cash to take a moment and seriously think about the negative effects of direct to consumer HIV drug ads.

It's time to dump *Poz*. Many activists involved in HIV case manager training programs have long known the dangers of so-called treatment magazines stuffed full of drug company advertisements. Many of these magazines and newsletters (*Poz* included) only exist to display these ads in the first place. One must be highly suspect of any treatment advice found within their pages,

and good case manager training curriculum warns PWAs not to take medical advice from such periodicals.

Yet *Poz* entices us with their youngish cover models and provocative headlines. We want to throw it away, but we feel compelled to just take a peek before pitching it in the trash. What we find is the usual disappointing New York-centric queenish, tatty writing. "It's sort of like *Genre for AIDS*," remarked one Survive AIDS member at a recent meeting. While mucking past endless HIV drug ads with their accompanying pages of fine print (warning: may cause death) that can only be read with bifocals, we find the occasional gem, the *Poz* story to tell us why certain idiots prefer to bareback as a matter of course and how wonderfully round and bubble-like Spencer Cox's ass has become in recent years. If you find yourself quickly thumbing through *Poz* while holding it over a trash can – you are not alone. Let it fall.

And in case you are involved in treatment access and real issues that have to do with PWAs and HIV-positive survival, don't bother with *Poz*'s news reporting. They decide what is important. Of course that all has to do with what is "in" in New York City that month. *Poz* is like a fashion review, only it has attached itself to

a terminal illness. It took them nearly a year to cover HIV-positive organ transplantation and even then wrote less than 200 words on the subject. Organ failure, often aggravated by HIV drugs, is a leading cause of death among PWAs – a fact left out of the glamorous drug ads. Tacky would be a kind word to describe *Poz*. Irresponsible and completely sold-out are more accurate descriptions.

*Poz* was the strange media child of Sean Strub and AIDS. You may recall that Strub made a fortune off selling gay folk's names and addresses to corporate America back in the 1980s. Strub

sold gay names to everyone – including the religious right. And *Poz* carries on that tradition as well. While you are receiving your free copy of *Poz*, you can bet that drug companies and countless other marketers are receiving vital research information about you. And then there is the *Poz* Expo. One cannot enter a *Poz* Expo unless he or she has over his full name and address. The cost of admission is merely your privacy. Some turn away from the expo for this reason.

But what prompted this long-overdue column was a recent *USA Today* article where we saw *Poz* reveal its true prostitute-like nature; coming to the defense of drug companies responsible for misleading HIV drug ads that de-

pict PWAs as healthy, sexy, mountain-climbing, horseback-riding athletes. In an April 6 *USA Today* article, "Ads linked to rise in rate of HIV infections, City considers ban on drug billboards," *Poz* publisher Brad Peebles answers the charge that HIV drug ads lead to unsafe sex: "This is one tiny blip in the consciousness of people choosing to engage in risky behavior," he said. "It's fueled by alcoholism, by drugs, by the bars, by the phone lines and Internet cruising." The article goes on to say: "Peebles says he doesn't think that the ads 'will encourage people to have unsafe sex or be more careless.' The drug companies, he adds, 'aren't responsible for keeping people [HIV] negative.'

So now a magazine publisher (who happens to earn lots of cash selling these ads) has an important idea about the epidemiology of AIDS and what goes on in the mind of persons having unsafe sex. With no credentials or data to back him up, Peebles suddenly knows more about such influences than S.F. public health experts, HIV prevention researchers, and others who study the causes of unsafe sex. Surely such things that pay his salary could not be responsible. And most surprising – if not shocking – is that Brad Peebles also knows that the drug companies aren't responsible for keeping people HIV-negative. Shouldn't such comments (if true or otherwise) be coming from the drug companies themselves? *Poz*, which once spoke for people with AIDS, now speaks for the drug companies. And when it came time for *Poz* to report the breaking story about HIV drug ads possibly leading to unsafe sex? There was nothing, no *Poz* reporters calling for interviews for a story that was covered by all major media outlets in the U.S. and internationally.

Since he was seemingly speaking for the drug companies, Peebles might have mentioned another important detail: Telling

people that an HIV-infected lifestyle – taking the wonderful HIV drugs – will be pretty and fun, might increase new HIV infections, and therefore more drug sales. Oh no! They couldn't be doing that. Could they?

At the recent hearing on the issue in S.F. City Hall, we saw no drug company employees willing to be recognized, speak out, or start a dialogue. Instead they apparently tried to disguise themselves while lurking in the hallway and the back of the committee room. Enter *A&U* magazine's editor, David Wagoner. In the last issue of this drug company-sponsored AIDS magazine, Wagoner tells us that we should not side with African countries trying to make their own drugs, but instead, back up our friends in the drug industry to protect those patents and money so that better drugs can be researched. This is the price we pay for these ads and their revenue – being sold out by the likes of *A&U* and *Poz*. Might want to also dump *A&U* while you're at it. Or better yet call Wagoner and tell him he sucks.

Do people with AIDS really need the likes of drug company mouthpieces disguised as magazines? Many say no.

It has been said that there is no such thing as a free lunch. It follows that there is no free *Poz* either. We are paying for *Poz* in more ways than one. Perhaps if we all stopped reading it and told them to stop sending it, *Poz* might go away. Perhaps not, because we didn't ask for it in the first place. ▼

Some PWAs question the need for *POZ* magazine.

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Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization – and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ads obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

## Ronald Peter Black

January 28, 1958 — April 4, 2001



Ron died peacefully and suddenly at Peninsula Hospital. A brief and sudden struggle with Lymphoma took Ron from all of us. He is survived by his partner of 18 years, Paul Poret, and his immediate family of Tori and Bert, the Beagles, and Indy, the cat. He is also survived by his loving brothers and sister, John, Leo, David, and Delores; his father, Leo, and many nieces and nephews.

Ron spent many years in San Francisco before moving to the suburbs of

Belmont. His years in San Francisco were full of fun and service to the community. He was a founding member of the Coming Home Hospice Bingo and volunteered with the Most Holy Redeemer Support group. For those of you old enough to remember, Ron worked at the Obelisk and On the Rock stores on Castro Street in the '80s. Ron's enthusiasm and love of gardening and history made him an engaging soul to be around.

Donations in Ron's memory can be made to Coming Home Hospice, 115 Diamond St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

## Ken Morgan



Kenny Morgan passed away early in the evening of April 12 at Kaiser Emergency. It was a peaceful transition, following many years of medical challenges. Bruno Kochis, his devoted roommate, was at his side.

Kenny was a train buff, a traveler, a well-read witty conversationalist, a gossip columnist, a kind and considerate human being, and a bartender extraordinaire. His many years behind the plank at The Pendulum helped shape an emerging neighborhood. After 20 years there, his fans followed him to The Transfer for another five years of entertaining weekend afternoons before his retirement in the mid-nineties. The Waterfront had been his first venue as a bartender after a career in the music industry. His following was a mix of all those wonderful years.

The community is invited to celebrate Kenny's life at Sullivan's Mortuary, 2245 Market St. (at Sanchez) on Saturday

day, April 28 at 2 p.m. George Mayer, Ken's fellow bartender and dear friend, will facilitate a celebration that will encourage reminiscences and dishing. Please join us.

**John Blake West, Ed.D.**  
May 13, 1949 — April 10, 2001



John West died on April 10 of heart failure complicated by his lengthy struggle with AIDS. John's courage, strength and optimism in the face of overwhelming odds was remarkable. John attended West Virginia University and the University of North Carolina, and earned his Doctor of Education from the University of San Francisco.

Until his retirement in 1996, Dr. West had a distinguished career with the U.S. Public Health Service where he was a tireless advocate for public health and AIDS issues. He also held faculty appointments at San Francisco State and USF, and he served as a consultant in healthcare and HIV program evaluation.

John was a dedicated educator, researcher, community leader, and a warm, caring friend. He is survived by his long-term partner, Mick; brother, Jay; sister, Terri; special friend, Buzz; and many loving friends throughout the world. He was preceded in death by Douglass, his partner of many years; and by parents Clayton and Gracey.

A celebration of John's life will be held on May 19. Please call (415) 753-0253 for information. John's remains will be strewn in the River Seine in the Marais in his beloved city of Paris, where his soul will rest forever.



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## HIV drug ads

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contact, a doctor who works with the drug firms, and he thinks it would be in their best interest to sit down [with city officials] and he is willing to act as an intermediary."

But, said Ammiano, sounding far less conciliatory than at the hearing, "if they don't respond in a timely manner, the city attorney is ready to draft legislation banning such advertisements."

"We are definitely committed to going there," Ammiano added. "I think this is brokerable. But the pharmaceutical companies are so autonomous and have so much money that if mediation fails..."

At the hearing the board president had said he was seeking mediation, not litigation.

In an ongoing effort spurred by recent proliferation of 'glam' lifestyle HIV ads on billboards and city bus shelters, local health officials and HIV prevention activists are tackling what they see as sexually provocative and misleading advertisements. They argue that the images of physically healthy and attractive men – some shown mountain climbing – betrays the horrors of AIDS.

Other ads have drawn fire for featuring handsome men, some "scantly clad" with bedroom eyes or come-hither looks. Critics say the ads may lull people into believing AIDS is not so devastating, and thus promote unsafe sexual practices, especially for youths who haven't dealt with the disease.

At the hearing, prevention activists and health officials spelled out their problems with the advertising. One major objection: young people who may get the message that HIV isn't such a big deal.

In a letter read to the committee members, Stop AIDS Project board members said: "We also hear from men, both HIV-positive and -negative, who put it much simpler with statements such as 'Climbing mountains, my ass! Where's the Porta-Potty?'

"And, perhaps the most troubling story we have heard oc-

curred at a seminar held in March for people who have recently tested positive. Participants were discussing the pharmaceutical ads and one 25-year-old man summarized the conversation by saying that the ads made him feel that getting HIV was 'no big deal.' He is now learning what it truly means to try and manage being HIV-positive."

The writers, board members Chris Cowen and Rafael Rosario, said they did not support an outright ban on the advertisements in question, but wanted pharmaceutical firms to take responsibility for possible unintended harm to the community.

Such advertising "gives the wrong signal to the non-infected or to kids," said Rosario, who is HIV-positive.

## Regimen for life

HIV drugs have improved his life, Rosario said, "but I still have to deal with neuropathy and daily diarrhea. This is a reality. People need to know: this is going to be your regimen for the rest of your life. The pharmaceutical companies should address this."

No one from the pharmaceutical industry addressed the hearing.

Many speakers argued that the drug firms were essentially cynical in their appropriation of positive images.

Survive AIDS' Jeff Getty told the committee that he was concerned about the prominent appearances of ads that are "sexual in nature" on city billboards and bus shelters, and raised the question of whether such images "could lead to unsafe sex."

In actuality, he said, when taking powerful drugs for HIV/AIDS, "you get to the point where you're not out climbing mountains, you're not out sailing."

Some ads "are telling children, 'I'm positive, but with the drugs I'm going to feel more like myself again.' The pharmaceutical firms are selling the disease with drugs," he added.

## Bus stop

Lew Lillian, general manager of Infinity Outdoor Advertising,

handles advertising for San Francisco's 1,100 bus shelters, as well as billboards.

"I'll make every effort to support what we do [at the hearing]," Lillian said. "But we should be cautious in talking about a ban. We can tell the pharmaceutical companies to modify their ads, to not make them provocative. The bottom line is, they cannot make people think they can just take a pill..."

Lillian, who was en route to an industry meeting this week, told the B.A.R. on Monday that some industry contacts were listening, but some were "sort of blasé."

An effort to ban advertising would be "kind of a litigious thing," Lillian said in his presentation. "It would be trouble, it would be biting off an awful lot."

He said there were limits to how much image and content could be regulated.

Infinity donates to the city about \$1 million annually in advertising space; of that about \$225,000 goes for HIV education, Lillian said. His firm often donates space to the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

He added that a number of prevention warnings, "especially from the San Francisco health department, are provocative, some have used a relatively sexy approach."

Most LGBT media outlets, including the B.A.R., rely on revenues from pharmaceutical advertising. Some of the ads being challenged in the hearing also appear in magazines such as *POZ* and other media. Crixivan's mountain climbing ad tops the Crixivan Web site. The drug, also called indinavir, is made by Merck & Co.

A number of critics have also noted that outdoor advertising, unlike print ads, leaves little room for complex disclaimers and warnings. What there is usually is printed in very small type.

Dr. Jeff Klausner, director of STD Prevention and Control Services for the Department of Public Health, told the hearing a preliminary study of 442 men showed that 61 percent believed that HIV advertisements "affect a person's

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# Cape crusader

by Jim Provenzano

**T**hirty years ago, there were no Gay Games, few gay sports teams, and no out gay or lesbian athletes. Yet one book about a gay runner and his lover/coach, *The Front Runner*, became an international hit.

Patricia Nell Warren, author of the classic novel, has written another gay love story in an entirely different sport.

The closest most of us will get to a bullfight is a black velvet painting, a Hemingway novel, or a viewing of *Jamón, Jamón*. With even the Pamplona running of the bulls being reduced to an MTV "Jackass" stunt, the nobility of the centuries-old ritual had been lost along the way.

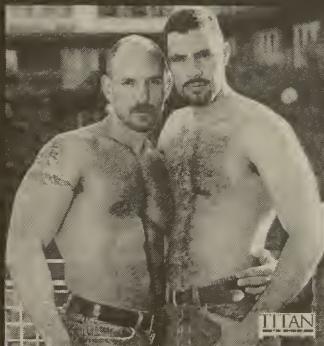
Up until the fascist Franco regime, bullfights were reduced to fewer events. Despite the perception of blatant eroticism that surrounds the sport - the revealing costumes and the phallic symbolism - the rarity and pressures of being a gay *torero* make such an



Author Patricia Nell Warren



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endeavor downright terrifying. Spanish fans may openly lust for their heroes, but they still deny the homoerotic aspects of it outside the arena.

Warren uses her esteemed skills in both storytelling and fact-finding in *The Wild Man* (Wildcat Press), a novel about Antonio, a Spanish gay bullfighter. Torn by the Franco dictatorship of 1960s Spain, the closeted *torero* balances his fame as a national hero and the duties of a nobleman managing his family estate.

Hidden on its land is an ancient shrine to a pagan goddess, and an early artifact of Antonio's ancestry. In this subplot, Warren expands the goddess/earth mother themes of her visual art and lesser-known fantasy novels into pressing environmental concerns that involve Antonio's battle for his homeland.

His love affair with Juan, a handsome young peasant gifted for healing animals, ties in nicely with these themes. Their abrupt encounter in the middle of a post-bullfight crowd carries the sensual impact of Warren's noted "run in the woods" scene from *The Front Runner*.

After losing track of him, though, Antonio sets out to find the young stableman, who eventually shows up at his country estate.

Juan's unusual gift for animal healing leads to his position on Antonio's land managing the wildlife. This allows Juan and Antonio the excuse to hike off and make love in privacy.

A pair of potential arranged marriages between Antonio's twin sister, a jaded journalist, and another woman for the aging bullfighter, seem to provide a ring of hope in a double wedding of convenience.

But the bliss of their arrangement is interrupted by suspicions and rumors spurred on by a secretive gang of fascists. A scene late in the novel, with a kidnapping, guns, and threats, has all the tension of a noir thriller.

Blending her decades of journalism with a passionate account of a *torero*'s life makes one wonder if she isn't telling a true story. Warren frames the whole amazing story around an encounter with a retired bullfighter she met at Numbers, an upscale Los Angeles gay hustler bar.

Generously supplemented with essays about the writing of *The Wild Man*, Warren expands the perspective on bullfighting well beyond the cliché of black velvet paintings, offering an in-depth perspective on a dying sport steeped in blood, cruelty, and stubborn tradition.

Patricia Nell Warren will read from and sign copies of *The Wild Man* next Thursday, April 26, 7:30 p.m. at A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro Street (415) 431-0891. For more info, visit <http://www.adlbooks.com> or <http://www.wildcatpress.com>.

### Oars sense

Just a reminder, the Bay Blades, our lesbian and gay-inclusive rowing team, is sponsoring a meet

and greet orientation for rowers new and old.

Hop over to Oakland on this Saturday April 21 at 10:30 a.m. at the Lake Merritt Boathouse and meet some of the skilled scullers.

A correction from last week: the \$75 annual membership is for beginners only. The full Lake Merritt Rowing Club membership is a few hundred more. Nevertheless, where else can you get such breathtaking scenery with your aquatic workout?

For more info, give team president/secretary Vern Nuanez a call at (415) 558-8671, or visit the club's Web site at <http://www.sfbayblades.com>.

### Courtcast

Apologies to readers for not providing an advance reminder of ABC's *When Billie Beat Bobbie* but the network, despite its increasingly gay tone, doesn't provide advance copies to little 30-year-old papers.

While taking a lighthearted tone, retro mockumentaries like this inflate small facts and diminish - or eliminate - others. The famed 1973 Houston Astrodome tennis match between then-closeted (and married) lesbian Billie Jean King and the buffoon of a tennis pro Bobby Riggs became an overblown "Battle of the Sexes."



Billie Jean King



Ron Silver and Holly Hunter in *When Billie Beat Bobbie*

and served as a media debate about feminism and women's rights.

Holly Hunter, admirably portraying King, is not shown even realizing her lesbianism. Despite other players vaguely portrayed as such, the "L" word doesn't come up until well, never.

Ron Silver reminds us what a cartoon Bobby Riggs was (Fred Willard as Howard Cosell isn't much more realistic). The TV movie serves as a reminder of how far women in sports have come since the leisure suit days.

My favorite blast-from-the-past was seeing Vincent Van Patten acting once again, and in shorts! An off-screen tennis pro and one-time agoraphobic, Van Patten was considered for the role of Billy Sive in the ever-tabled film version of *The Front Runner*. Now he looks ruddy enough to play the coach.

And while the WILL MAKE A MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENT captions showing women viewers as future higher achievers excludes the caption for Ms. King: WILL FINALLY COME OUT, THEN GO IN, THEN COME OUT AS A LESBIAN, it's still interestingly amusing revisionist broadcasting at its most palatable.

The media only values events that it can capture, manipulate, and regurgitate. Forget the suffragettes, *Roe v. Wade*, Gloria Steinem, or Bella Abzug, we are told. It all came down to a tennis match. Thanks, ABC, for once again tacitly playing both sides of the net, and reducing lesbian and gay sports culture icons to the vaguely visible. ▼

Got a GLBT sports event? Want to make it visible? E-mail [JimProv@excite.com](mailto:JimProv@excite.com), or visit <http://sportscomplex.org>.

what happened in Florida last week to understand how a lack of education can mangle the mind, as it did to state Representative Allen Trovillion (R-Winter Park). Trovillion was being visited by a group of LGBT youth advocating for their safety in schools when he reportedly told the students, "You are throwing your life away," and "God is going to destroy you." Trovillion was admonished by members of the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network and other groups, including the Human Rights Campaign.

California's AB537 Task Force was comprised of people of all religious, racial, and ethnic backgrounds. Several members of the task force are from the Bay Area, including Mike Marshall, interim executive director of the LGBT Community Center Project; Brian Cheu, executive director of Lavender Youth Education and Recreation Center; Lester Olmstead-Rose, former executive director of Community United Against Violence; Grant Peterson of GLSEN; and Jill Trevor of the San Francisco Intergroup Clearinghouse. ▼

### HIV drug ads

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decision" to have unprotected sex.

Kyra Lindemann, a spokeswoman for Merck & Co., which makes Crixivan (indinavir), told the B.A.R. in a telephone interview that the pharmaceutical firm had done no outdoor advertising since September 2000. She said the firm's strategic objectives had changed to emphasize print media, adding that "all our ads are consistent" with federal Food and Drug Administration guidelines.

Asked about the drug's advertising messages, Lindemann said, "Crixivan's imagery has been con-

sistent over five years, with the mountain climbing. The image intentionally demonstrates the ability of people who have HIV to lead active lives. There's a lot of anecdotal evidence from people on treatment saying they feel better, more energized."

Merck's advertising is "not just about pictures," Lindemann said. It's designed to encourage dialogue between patients and doctors. "There's a lot of information about benefits and risks."

Notably in print ads, Lindemann added, where an image page is usually followed by a medical details and disclaimer page, "we talk about side effects. We say Crixivan is not a cure." ▼

## Rosenkrantz faces bail hearing later this month

by Ed Walsh

**G**ay prisoner Robert Rosenkrantz could walk out of prison later this month for the first time since he was arrested for killing his tormentor in 1985.

A bail hearing is scheduled for April 27 before supervising Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Paul Gutman. The state is expected to vigorously fight any bail request. A hearing on whether to release Rosenkrantz permanently on parole is slated for May 16.

Rosenkrantz's fight for freedom has been tied up in the courts for two years. Gutman assigned himself to hear the case after Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Kathryn Ann Stoltz was yanked off the case by an appeals court. The higher court acted on a request from the state, which had argued Stoltz was biased in favor of Rosenkrantz.

Stoltz had issued several strongly worded rulings ordering Rosenkrantz's release. Stoltz ruled that Rosenkrantz had been unfairly denied parole and her opinion was later strongly endorsed by an appeals court.

Despite Rosenkrantz's record as a model prisoner, Governor Gray Davis and his hand-picked parole board have been fighting to keep him locked up. Davis once vowed to stop the parole of all

convicted killers. Since taking office more than two years ago, he's only allowed for the parole of one person. That was last fall, when he approved the release of a woman convicted of killing her abusive boyfriend in 1985.

Rosenkrantz had just turned 18 in 1985 when he shot and killed 17-year-old Steve Redman outside Redman's home in Calabasas, near Malibu. A week earlier, Redman and Rosenkrantz's younger brother burst into a high school graduation party Rosenkrantz was hosting, yelling: "Get the fuck out of here, you faggots!" Redman broke Rosenkrantz's nose with a flashlight and later ousted him to his father.

Rosenkrantz bought an Uzi and said he threatened to shoot up Redman's car unless he accompanied him to his parents' house to take back the outing. Redman refused. They argued and Rosenkrantz opened fire, shooting Redman 10 times.

Rosenkrantz eventually turned himself in, was found guilty of second-degree murder and was sentenced to 17-years-to-life. With "good time" credits, he has been eligible for parole since 1996.

Rosenkrantz was nearly released from prison twice last fall. The first time his release was blocked by a court-ordered stay and the second time by a veto from Davis.▼

## Optimism highlights gay MBA conference

by David Fraser

**S**peakers told students at the recent third annual national lesbian and gay MBA conference that there is increasing corporate enthusiasm to recruit and retain gay employees.

The private sector is making "incredible" strides toward valuing lesbian and gay employees, according to John Newsome, co-organizer of the gathering at the end of March.

Called "Reaching Out: Lesbian and Gay MBA Conference 2001," the forum drew speakers including Kathy Levinson, former president and COO of E\*Trade; Democratic National Committee treasurer Andrew Tobias; and Cynthia Martin, a former Kodak vice president.

"We recognize how the growing confidence in our community comes with a responsibility to advocate for greater fairness and social justice," Newsome said.

Reaching Out was hosted by the Stanford Graduate School of Business, the Anderson School at the University of California, Los Angeles, and Thunderbird, the American Graduate School of International Management.

Renee Santo, a Thunderbird MBA student and co-organizer of the conference, said, "Each speaker's message reflected Reaching Out's theme of using professional clout to create change in their companies and society."

"If one message rang true throughout the entire conference," said Todd Henneman, an Anderson School MBA student and co-organizer, "it was that diversity is key to business success today. Lesbian and gay MBAs are looking ahead to a future of challenge and change – and they'll be

playing a key part in both."

While at the E\*Trade Group Inc., Levinson built the company into its position as the number three online broker in the U.S. She risked a consumer backlash when she and her former partner of more than 20 years, Jennifer Levinson, donated \$300,000 to fight the passage of Proposition 22, which banned same-sex marriages in California.

Martin resigned from Kodak during a reorganization after being out there for more than six years. During her tenure, she helped raise awareness about gay and lesbian issues and assure workplace protection for employees.

Tobias is probably best known for his groundbreaking novel *The Best Little Boy in the World*. He is a financial columnist and has written for the *New York Times Sunday Magazine*, *New York Magazine*, and others.

Stanford's Newsome comes out of a nonprofit background and is working to combine what he has learned in the MBA program with his nonprofit interests.

"I found that in many organizations, management rigor was absent," Newsome told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "Many did not have clearly articulated strategies or outcomes: that's why I went to business school."

He plans to return to the nonprofit world, having "learned many skills. I understand how business people are taught to optimize for profit, but I am also now a much bigger fan of big government. Now I value the types of regulations the government imposes, for example workplace health."

Further details on the conference are available at [www.gaybiz.org](http://www.gaybiz.org).▼

# BAY AREA REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS

## LEGAL NOTICES

### STATEMENT FILE NO.246400

The following person(s) are doing business as: Salt Branding, LLC. 88 Guy Place #401, SF., CA 94105. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed David L. Neugebauer. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 01-01-01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/20/01.

**MAR. 29, APR. 5, 12, 19, 2001**

### STATEMENT FILE NO.247600

The following person(s) are doing business as: Pacific Coast Mat. & Matting Co 2060 Cesar Chavez S., San Francisco, CA 94124. This business is conducted by a individual signed Claudine M. Bailey. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on March 21, 2001.

**MAR. 29, APR. 5, 12, 19, 2001**

### STATEMENT FILE NO.247593

The following person(s) are doing business as: Rug Wrestlers 2010 Geneva Ave #1 SF., CA 94112. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Arturo M. Espinola Jr., De Angelo D. Dove Sr., Michael A. Hickerson. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/21/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/21/01.

**MAR. 29, APR. 5, 12, 19, 2001**

### STATEMENT FILE NO.247024

The following person(s) are doing business as: Julie's Deli and Restaurant 4689 Mission St. SF., CA 94112. This business is conducted by a individual signed Mimi Tang. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 02/27/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/27/01.

**MAR. 29, APR. 5, 12, 19, 2001**

### STATEMENT FILE NO.247557

The following person(s) are doing business as: The Phoenix Bar & Restaurant 811 Valencia St. SF., CA 94110. This business is conducted by a limited partnership signed Eugene Francis Power, Paul Cornelius Campbell. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, NA.

The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/20/01.

**MAR. 29, APR. 5, 12, 19, 2001**

### STATEMENT FILE NO.247616

The following person(s) are doing business as: Privilege, Club Privilege 858 48th Ave. SF., CA 94121. This business is conducted by a individual signed Mohnen Z Salehi. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 3/16/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/22/01.

**MAR. 29, APR. 5, 12, 19, 2001**

### STATEMENT FILE NO.247362

The following person(s) are doing business as: Circus Center, National Circus Center 755 Frederick St., SF., CA 94117. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Patrick Osborn Executive Director. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 3/12/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/21/01.

**MAR. 29, APR. 5, 12, 19, 2001**

### STATEMENT FILE NO.247567

The following person(s) are doing business as: BBB Towing 1522 Silver Ave. SF CA 94134. This business is conducted by a individual signed Najib Yaser. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 3/20/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/20/01.

**MAR. 29, APR. 5, 12, 19, 2001**

### STATEMENT FILE NO.247560

The following person(s) are doing business

as: Lombard Collision Works 2340 Lombard St., SF., CA 94123. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Paul F. Dos Santos. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/20/01.

**MAR. 29, APR. 5, 12, 19, 2001**

### STATEMENT FILE OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 243578

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Pacific Coast Mat. & Matting Co 2060 Cesar Chavez SF., CA 94124. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on, 8/01/2000.

This business was conducted by: a General Partnership: Claudine Bailey, Alfred Lieberman.

**MAR. 29, APR. 5, 12, 19, 2001**

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.319886

In the Matter of the Application of Chiu, Ng Mui (aka) Yu Chiu, Ng Mui. For change of Name. The application of Chiu, Ng Mui (aka) Yu Chiu, Ng Mui for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Chiu, Ng Mui (aka) Yu Chiu, Ng Mui has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Yee, Sammifer Ng-Mui Chiu. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 22nd day of May, 2001 at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

APRIL 5, 12, 19, 26, 2001

### STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.313338

In the Matter of the Application of Jason Michael White Rejali (minor) by his father Shahab Mostafari Rejali for change of Name. The application for Jason Michael White Rejali (minor) by his father Shahab Mostafari Rejali for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Jason Michael White Rejali (minor) by his father Shahab Mostafari Rejali has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Jason Michael Rejali. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 22nd day of May, 2001 at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

APRIL 5, 12, 19, 26, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO.247848

The following person(s) are doing business as: DL Group LTD. 2701 Judah Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual signed Dmitry Litchevsky. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 04/02/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/02/01.

**APR. 12, 19, 26, MAY 3, 2001**

### STATEMENT FILE NO.247840

The following person(s) are doing business as: 1st JE-IL Gift. 888 Brannan Street Suite #275, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Oh, Hyang Suk. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 04/02/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/02/01.

**APR. 12, 19, 26, MAY 3, 2001**

### STATEMENT FILE NO.247769

The following person(s) are doing business as: Thanh+Thanh. 2205 Clement Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94121. This business is conducted by an individual signed Pat Duong. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 3/29/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/29/01.

**APR. 12, 19, 26, MAY 3, 2001**

### STATEMENT FILE NO.247761

The following person(s) are doing business as: Jim Thomas Consulting. 1690 Funston Avenue #1, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jim Thomas. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 3/30/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/30/01.

**APR. 12, 19, 26, MAY 3, 2001**

### STATEMENT FILE NO.247944

The following person(s) are doing business as: Huck Image. 190 7th Street #11, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed G. Thomas Sawyer. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 4/03/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/04/01.

**APR. 12, 19, 26, MAY 3, 2001**

### STATEMENT FILE NO.247766

The following person(s) are doing business as: Silk Road Art & Fashion. 716 Monterey Blvd. San Francisco, Ca. 94127. This business is conducted by husband and wife signed Victor Tung and Bei Bei Shen. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/16/01.

**APR. 19, 26, MAY 3, 2001**

### STATEMENT FILE NO.248127

The following person(s) are doing business

## LEGAL NOTICES

as: CFL Jewelry, 888 Brannan Street #3290, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Chi Fu Lo. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 4/11/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca on 04/11/01.

APR. 19, 26, MAY 3, 10, 2001

**STATEMENT FILE NO. 248171**  
The following person(s) are doing business as Compowash U.S.A. 2408 Bayshore Blvd. San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business is conducted by an individual signed Hawk N. Lee. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 4/13/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca on 04/13/01.

APR. 19, 26, MAY 3, 10, 2001

**STATEMENT FILE NO. 248153**

The following person(s) are doing business as Golden Base Asian Art. 120 Mercury Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94128. This business is conducted by an individual signed Guo Ji Lin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 4/20/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca on 04/20/01.

APR. 19, 26, MAY 3, 10, 2001

**STATEMENT FILE NO. 247876**

The following person(s) are doing business as Fati Sak Records. 121 Marlin Ct. San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by husband and wife signed Richard L. Norris Jr. and Lyette F. Norris. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/03/95. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca on 04/03/01.

APR. 19, 26, MAY 3, 10, 2001

**STATEMENT FILE NO. 247915**

The following person(s) are doing business as Prosev, Proshov. 235 Montgomery Street Suite 962, San Francisco, Ca. 94104. This business is conducted by limited liability company signed Lee A. Nola, president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 6/22/87. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca on 04/04/01.

APR. 19, 26, MAY 3, 10, 2001

**STATEMENT FILE NO. 248008**

The following person(s) are doing business as Pacific Heights Skin Care. 2000 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 509, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by limited liability company signed Shari Spakes, manager. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 4/06/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca on 04/06/01.

APR. 19, 26, MAY 3, 10, 2001

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 320099**

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In the Matter of the Application of Dana Altman Loberstein, for change of Name. The application of Dana Altman Loberstein for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Dana Altman Loberstein has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Linus Daniel Altman. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 4th day of June, 2001 at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

APRIL 19, 26, MAY 3, 10, 2001

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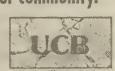
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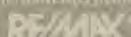
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E16

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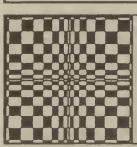
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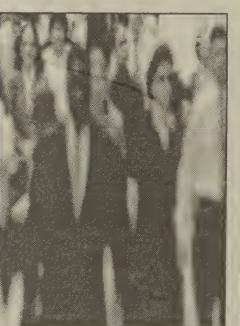
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# CALLING US "QUEER" IS CRUEL, HURTFUL, AND MISGUIDED

"What is the next banner going to say? 'More Faggots/Dykes per square mile than any place in America?' I think this project is misguided." (It might also be asked if NOW would use the c-word; if the NAACP would use the n-word; and if the Anti-Defamation League would use the k-word. What if Dr. Laura had said, "You queers!....")

"...I believe we should respect those who marched before us and leave the word 'queer' in the past where it belongs. And in naming the center, I hope and pray the word 'queer' is not planned to be a part of it. I find it offensive and hurtful."

## WE FEEL:

- To be called "queer" conveys hatred and contempt, tears the heart, cuts the soul, and produces anxiety, fear, and depression while destroying self-esteem and confidence.
- The use of "QUEER" and "FAGGOT" by cruel tormentors in schoolyard bullying has helped drive some desperately miserable students to shootings.
- Many older men with memories of being terrorized still cringe at the emotional assault of being called "queer" and anticipate being chased down the street, followed by a physical assault that could mean a broken nose or even murder.

In New York City, the Metropolitan Community Church of NY has caused great sadness, distress, and disbelief by using the guilt-producing and viciously accusatory logo stating "God made you Queer — MCCNY" in newspaper ads and in certain publications, which also announce communion services for "Queer African Americans" and a prayer service for "Queer Jewish Americans."

Campaigns to promote the word "queer" are self-defeating and counter-productive. An organization with "queer" in its name may consider itself stylish and cutting edge, but will suffer reduced financial support from foundations, corporations, and individuals, and will drive away many people and service agencies.

WE MUST RELIEVE PAIN AND HARDSHIP, NOT IMPOSE IT.  
LET'S STOP THE NAMECALLING AND PLEDGE TO TEACH  
**TOLERANCE, KINDNESS, and RESPECT for all.**

**Finale to the Henry Rios mysteries**  
Author Michael Nava talks to BAR about  
'Rag and Bone' and the writing life.

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**'Porn' at the Victoria**  
Ronnie Larsen's 'Shooting  
Porn' re-enacted onstage.

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**'Queer' triumph**  
Burroughs' world spurs  
Wold's chamber opera.

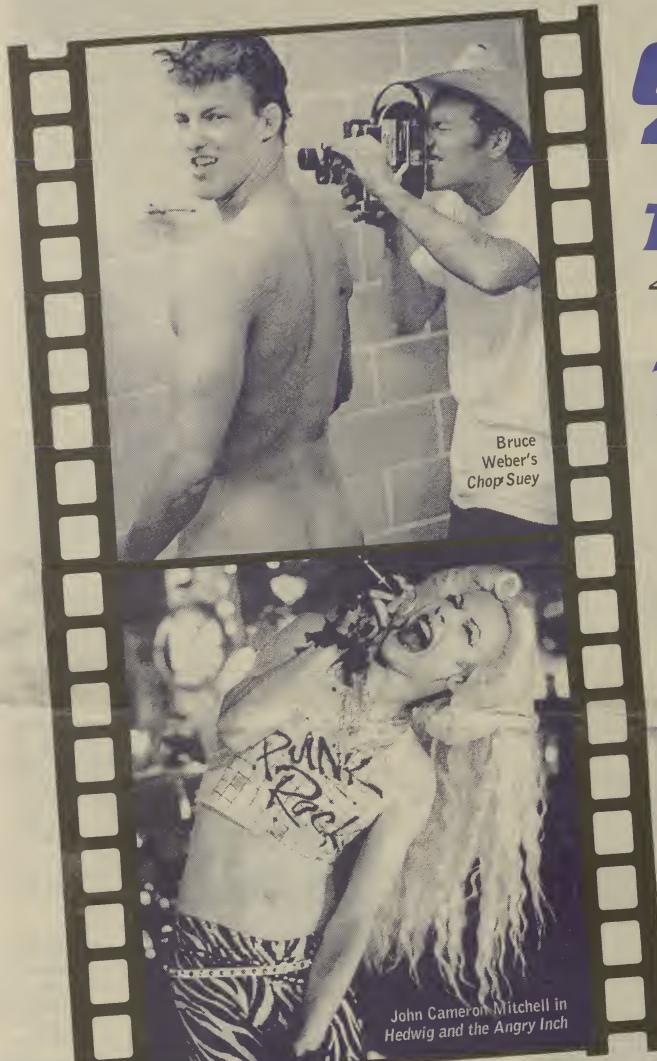
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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Vol. 31 • No. 16 • 19 April 2001

BAY AREA REPORTER



John Cameron Mitchell in *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*

## Queer at the 'straight' film festival

44th SF International Film Fest

by David Lamble

**T**his year's 44th San Francisco International Film Festival, April 19-May 3 at various venues, is a Whitman sampler of queer delights. Included: a harrowing if darkly funny exploration of the fallout from the Columbian drug wars, a world-class photographer giving us a cook's tour of life with the beautiful people, the confessions of a gay cannibal, a survivor's tale, a *Rocky Horror* for our time, the perils of young love at the beach, a boy and some naughty sailors, a girls-only wrestling federation, and one of the best ballet films ever made.

*Our Lady of the Assassins*, an openly gay writer, approaching 60 and feeling he has shot his creative wad, returns to his hometown to die. Because that hometown happens to be Medellin, home of Columbia's ruthless drug gangs, Fernando (German Jaramillo) becomes a witness to the most beautiful boy in town, Fernando soon discovers that Alexis (Anderson Ballesteros) is never without a hard-on, a stereo turned up past the point of pain, and a fully-loaded pistol. When Fernando complains about the noise from the punk-rock drummer next door, Alexis shoots the guy quite dead. When Fernando explains that civilization is the barrier between bad thoughts and bad deeds, Alexis flashes an uncomprehending smile. Alexis is just one of an angry army of street kids, each packing heat, and each ex-

pecting to die himself in the city's never-ending street-corner turf wars.

Surprisingly, *Our Lady* is not at all grim or melodramatic in its depiction of this adolescent bloodbath. Shooting in deep-focus digital video one jump ahead of Medellin's real-life carnage, Oscar-nominated director Barbet Schroeder instills the film with touches of black humor. When a lying politician comes on the tube, Alexis kills the TV; when Fernando can no longer bear Alexis' boombox disco, he drops it off the balcony with the offhand quip, "Did I kill anybody?" The film's sympathetic portrayal of ongoing pederasty makes perfect sense in a world where almost nothing else does. Schroeder gets vivid performances from two young non-actors (Ballesteros and Juan David Restrepo), and the veteran director gives the film's morally complex ending a great spin. (Castro, 4/21)

In *Chop Suey*, photographer Bruce Weber's goulash-like tribute to the beautiful amateur wrestler Peter Johnson, is Johnson the beef in the stew? While *Chop Suey* lacks even the slight bow to narrative storytelling found in Weber's earlier films *Broken Noses* and *Let's Get Lost*, Weber is telling a kind of bedtime story to Johnson, recapitulating the history of art photography and the often gay-identified male icons of beauty in whose shoes Johnson is treading. Weber also indulges a lifetime fascination with the bad and the beautiful: the very gay song-stylist Frances Faye, and the master of droopy-lidded bedroom eyes, Robert Mitchum. Yes, you'll be hungry soon

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## Wild dreams

'Cobra Woman' comes to the Castro

by Tavo Amador

**H**igh Camp, like style, is difficult to define, but you know it when you see it. One of the finest cinematic examples is *Cobra Woman* (1944), playing at the Castro Theatre on Monday, April 23 as part of the San Francisco International Film Festival.

On a peaceful island, presumably somewhere in the South Pacific, Kado (Sabu) encounters a stranger, the blind and mute Hava (Lon Chaney, Jr.), wandering along a tropical path. This is the wedding day of Ramu (Jon Hall) and Tollea (Maria Montez), and Hava's arrival is ominous. A native woman rushes to warn Ramu of danger, but collapses, dead. She has been fatally bitten by a cobra. (Tollea has a scar on her wrist from a similar bite, but no one knows how she got it.)

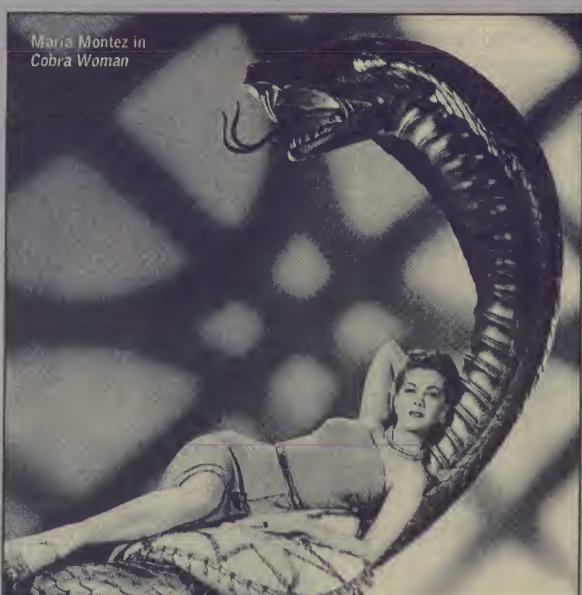
Ramu discovers that Tollea has disappeared. The man who reared her, a Scot named MacDonald (Moroni Olsen), explains that she's been kidnapped by her people, natives of Cobra Island, who kill strangers arriv-

ing on their shores. Years earlier, he had barely escaped from that awful island, and found "a wee babe" stowed on his sailboat. That "babe" grew up to be Tollea.

Naturally, Ramu is determined to rescue his bride-to-be, and the defiant Kado goes along for the fun of it. Once on Cobra Island, Ramu sees Tollea — or someone he thinks is Tollea. In truth, it's her twin sister, Nadja, High Priestess of the King Cobra religion.

Our first glimpse of Nadja is of her strolling with her ladies through tropical lawns, all of them walking with military precision, shod in platform heels, and wearing various sarongs, turbans, capes, and other astonishing jungle drag. Looming over everything is the Fire Mountain, a volcano threatening to erupt and destroy the island. To placate this angry force, the High Priestess provides it with human sacrifices from what seems an inexhaustible supply of people. She selects victims after performing a slithery

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**by Roberto Friedman  
and Doggone Blue**

**A** mores Perros, the gritty and gripping film portrait of three lives in Mexico City now playing in SF, has stirred up a lot of controversy in a very short time. First-time director Alejandro González Iñárriz's picture, a nominee for the foreign-film Oscar, has a plot that hinges on the barbaric practice of dogfighting for fun and profit. Teenager Octavio (Gael García Bernal) dreams of running away with his brother's wife, and raises funds for his plans by fighting his pet rottweiler.

"A disclaimer pops [up] at the start of the movie to soothe concerns about animal safety," according to last week's *SF Chronicle*'s somewhat incoherent review. "It's a warning that viewers will rely on in each of the film's three acts."



**Out There**

Of course, in San Francisco, the high media profile of "the dog case" has already assured that the sordid world of *Presas Canarias* raised to attack, and the loathsome couples who love them — and adopt white supremacist psychos to boot — is already in the public eye.

But what does it say about us as a society that movie audiences are assuaged about animal love, but no longer shocked at the portrayal of violence against *homo sapiens*? Where oh where is the society for the humane treatment of humans?

**Blind justice**

What portly right-wing British writer and *Advocate*-censored scribbler was seen sporting a George Michael beard and tired blue baseball cap, furiously chatting up a retired porn performer at Cafe Flore last Saturday?



Gael García Bernal in *Amores Perros* (*Love's a Bitch*)



Rodrigo Pinto



Michael O'Neill / Outline

Tupac Shakur: Rimbaud's return?

not *Rambo*." To be fair, the two names are homonyms. But a record guy makes a poetic allusion, and the *Times* thinks he's blowing *Sylvester Stallone*. What a world.

In a front-page *Times* story about inmate rape, a prison warden, one *Willis Sargent*, testifies in court that "prisoners bore the responsibility for fighting off sexual advances, by letting others know they were 'not going to put up with that.'" Erm, right, Mr. Warden, "just say no."

**American tourister**

It's not a typical release from a university press: the preface, for instance, is titled, "The Glasnost Juncture, or How I Learned to Say 'Shit' in Finnish." The book is *Making the World Safe for Tourism* (Yale) by journalist, playwright and traveler **Patricia Goldstone**.

Goldstone's exploration of the modern tourism industry, the world's biggest business, starts with the remarkable rise of American Express. AmEx's role as savior of the American traveler abroad dates back to the robber baron era and was a good p.r. image calculated, at least in part, to offset muckraking pressure on AmEx founder **J.C. Fargo** from heroic journalists **Ida Tarbell** and **Upton Sinclair**.

**After**

WWII, AmEx sold tourism as an extension of the Marshall Plan, and the US military gave AmEx their banking business and sightseeing business for US servicemen and women on

leave. "The South of France, where AmEx set up its first exclusively military offices, was redesignated the United States Riviera Recreation Area."

Goldstone also shows how "the emergence of large-scale sex tourism coincided with the establishment of 'rest and recreation' facilities for American GIs during World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War." She makes a "direct linkage between [60s Sec. of Defense] Robert McNamara, the World Bank, and the globalization of the sex biz." McNamara was in charge when the "US military signed an R&R contract with Thailand in 1967" and sex businesses "sprang up like mushrooms." Later, as president of the World Bank, McNamara urged on Thailand "an all-out effort to attract rich foreigners to the country's various tourist facilities." Glad to hear the World Bank is **on top** of things. ▼

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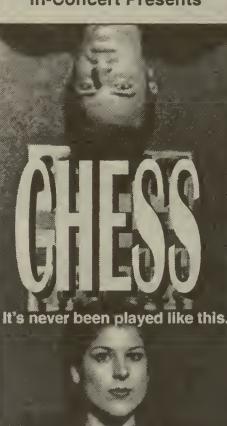
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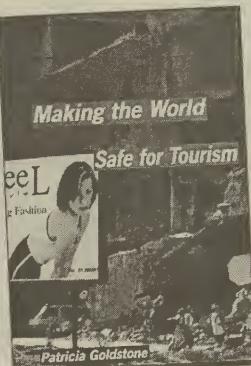
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**feel** Safe for Tourism

**Patricia Goldstone**

**Sick out**

Those singing gems with the juicy gams are baaaack! We speak, of course, of America's favorite dragapella beautyshop quartet, **The Kinsey Sicks**, who are set to perform in a benefit for the Noe Valley Ministry on Sunday, April 22 at 7 p.m. We ask you: where else but in the Gay Area would you find a group of queens in fright wigs headlining a benefit for a Presbyterian church and community center?

Sicks Winnie, Rachel, Trixie and **Trampolina** will sing (*not* lip-synch, that knewverymuch) their way through crowd-pleasing numbers, do a little gratuitous shtick, and generally grace us with their star quality. There will also be a silent auction, all at Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. For tickets (\$15), call (415) 282-2317.

**French tickler**

From *The New York Times* corrections box last week: "A Critic's Notebook article yesterday about the posthumous popularity of the rapper **Tupac Shakur** misstated a name in a comment from **Bill Adler**, a former record executive, who predicted an increasingly mythic status for him. Mr. Adler said, 'He's going to be **Jim Morrison**, he's going to be **Rimbaud**, he's going to be whatever people make of him.' He said **Rimbaud**,

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# Chilling in the Cold War

'Chess' in concert at New Conservatory

by Richard Dodds

**C**hess came down the megamusical pipeline from London that had already delivered *Cats*, *Les Misérables*, and *The Phantom of the Opera*. But a story built around a chess match is just not a megamusical at heart, and on Broadway, critics recoiled at the overblown spectacle that had once seemed a sure commercial bet.

But stripping it of almost all frills also strips away much of what made it seem pretentious, exploitative, and even inane. The New Conservatory Theatre Center's *In Concert* series is offering a handsome and compact version of the musical that had the bad timing of being a Cold War melodrama just as the Cold War players were chilling out.

Of course, a strong piece of material could survive the march of history, and not even the smartly staged and performed production at New Conservatory can make a case that *Chess* is bracing theater. The music by Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus has little of the synchro-pop catchiness of their work for ABBA; instead, it lumbers through a series of interchangeable ballads with mushy lyrics by Tim Rice, with the odd

novelty song thrown in.

The book was heavily revised from the successful London production to acknowledge the changing political realities of the late '80s, but not even the estimable playwright Richard Nelson (*Goodnight Children Everywhere*) could find a way out of the spy vs. spy silliness that overwhelms what is essentially an intimate story.

This is the story of a Soviet chess champion and the ugly American who is looking to unseat him, as their governments pull out the dirty tricks to make sure the right side wins. Sliding between the sides is a woman who once had an affair with the American for whom she now works — at least until she locks lips with the kindly Russian.

Director George Quick's streamlined production minimizes what could be a ponderous political fable, and his imaginative use of the enforced simplicity creates an organic look for the show that never seems undernourished. The sound is full, too, thanks to Dave Dobrusky's muscular work at the keyboard synthesizer.

Quick has assembled a cast that displays impressive strength throughout its ranks. Alexander Brose has a convincing rock-star petulance as the preening American chess player, while Noel

Anthony Escobar as his Russian counterpart conveys bedrock decency and delivers his songs in a rich voice.

Corrie Borris plays the American woman who chooses love over nationality with an ennobling sincerity that provides the melodrama with a heart. Brenda Reed lends a forlorn dignity to the Russian's estranged wife.

Timothy Duffield and Matthew Lazzarini play their KGB-CIA roles with conviction, and Candace Alexander Roberts, Lisa Jenal Hernandez and Brenda Reed create a stylized variation on the Greek chorus. Gary Wayne Farris completes the cast in the ill-defined role of the Arbiter.

*Chess* was supposed to be a Michael Bennett musical, but he withdrew from the project after leaning he had AIDS. Trevor Nunn took over as director, but the man who had helped create the megamusical movement with *Cats*, *Les Miz* and *Starlight Express* became a hired heavy hand on *Chess*. Size does matter, but in this case, the better size is small. ▼



Corrie Borris, Noel Anthony Escobar, and Brenda Reed in *Chess*.

Lois Tema



## Disco duck

### 'Saturday Night Fever'

by Richard Dodds

**P**eople like to go to the theater. The problem is, a lot of them just don't like the theater — as in thee-ah-tuh. And so, to provide something that is live but also comfortably connected to more accessible entertainment forms, we wind up with products like *Saturday Night Fever*.

But unlike its more successful cousin *Mamma Mia!*, which was a pure confection, the *Saturday Night* folks had to take a stab at suggesting the film's grittier story, from which the disco scenes provided a respite for both the characters and the audience. In the post-Broadway stage version at the Orpheum Theatre, a comic-book version of the story has become something to give the performers a chance to catch their breath between aerobic-style dance numbers.

Though its Bee Gees score became synonymous with the 1977 movie, *Saturday Night Fever* was not really a musical. The characters didn't break into song, and the dancing always had a realistic context. In its stage incarnation, the book has been molded to provide suggestions of logical lead-ins for the songs that have been distributed among the characters. In *Mamma Mia!*, we could laugh at these straining efforts. Here, we're supposed to take them seriously.

The show is at its best when it shuts up and just lets the cast work itself into a sweat. The steps provided by director-choreographer Arlene Phillips aren't anything you haven't seen before — think the Solid Gold dancers — but when

insistently performed by a stageful of dancers, they do have an impact.

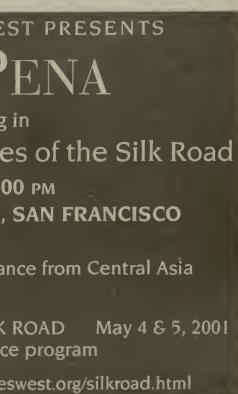
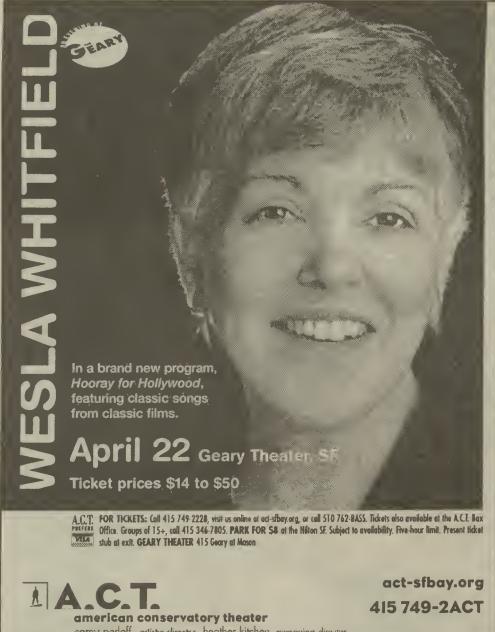
As for the indelible print of John Travolta on the role of Tony Manero, the choice has been to embrace it rather than fight it. Richard H. Blake looks a bit like the younger Travolta, and he manages Travolta's vocal inflections without quite crossing the line into caricature. But while Travolta had the benefit of camera tricks, cuts, and retakes to pull off his dance routines, his stage counterpart must offer the real thing. Blake pulls it off.

The handsome actor also has a skill and stage presence that not all of his on-stage associates possess. As the two women in his life, Aileen Quinn handles the role of the desperate Annette better than Jeanine Meyers in her ridiculous characterization of the social-climbing Stephanie.

This is not a particularly handsome production, which uses wrinkled road-company drop-cloths for its sets to save up for the relative flash of the disco scenes. When the disco floor started flashing, the audience cheered.

Those who were really there when disco ruled are moving into middle age, which of course is a prime demographic for theatergoers. There is nothing wrong with a satisfying nostalgia trip, but *Saturday Night Fever* doesn't know whether to make a joke of itself or to reproduce the spirit of the movie. It can't have it both ways. ▼

*Saturday Night Fever* will run at the Orpheum Theatre through May 6. Tickets are \$35-\$75. Call 512-7770.



# Snapshots from the revolution

## Staged life of Tina Modotti opens at Brava Theatre Center

by Richard Dodds

Tina Modotti packed an incredible amount of life into her 46 years, and playwright Ellen Gavin is trying to capture as much of it as possible in her new play about the celebrated photographer and revolutionary.

"It's gigantic," Gavin said of the scope of *Apertura Modotti*, opening this week at the Brava Theatre Center. "It's done as a series of snapshots, so each scene is meant to have its own composition, its own flavor. So it goes from San Francisco to Los Angeles to Mexico to Germany to Spain to the Soviet Union and back to Mexico."

Gavin first became aware of Modotti in the early '80s, when she saw an exhibition of Modotti's works. "And then I went to a panel that Galeria de la Raza organized, with some of the old communist agitators, and they had a big flaming fight about whether Tina was assassinated by her lover or not. So that was interesting. And Amy Mueller, a dear friend who is directing the play and is a founder of Brava, gave me a book about Tina in 1987. So it's been awhile."

Modotti is best known as a

student and lover of the legendary photographer Edward Weston, but her life encompasses considerably more than that association. Born in Italy in 1896, Modotti arrived in San Francisco in 1913, where she became a star of local Italian theater. By 1920, she was part of the Los Angeles bohemian scene that brought her into contact with Weston. She would eventually abandon photography for politics, in the Mexican Revolution, the Spanish Civil War, and Stalinist intrigue.

The men in her life were also a fascinating bunch. In addition to Weston, there was Cuban revolutionary Julio Antonio Mella, who was assassinated as they were out walking in Mexico City, and Communist hit man Vittorio Vidali, who some believe murdered her.

"She was someone willing to take lovers as she saw fit," Gavin said. "When she starts, she's kind of a tease, the one who's breaking hearts, and by the end, Vidali was very untrue to her."

The Brava production is highly visual, Gavin said, using a new computer video projection system that can fill the stage with images — including examples of Modotti's photographic work.

"It was her decision to put down the camera, but when you

would eventually abandon photography for politics, in the Mexican Revolution, the Spanish Civil War, and Stalinist intrigue.

The men in her life



Edward Weston photo reprinted by David Albin

see the body of work she produced over just seven or eight years, they're such beautiful, exceptional photographs," Gavin said. "But she felt she was more useful as an organizer than an artist."

It's an issue to which Gavin can easily relate. "In my life, I've been very political," she said. "I've been very world around Nicaragua and El Salvador. And I sometimes think my organizing work is more valuable and developed than my work as an artist. The whole term 'artist' is very middle-class in this culture."

Gavin was a student activist at



Luna Sea Women's Performance Project's Lesbian Playwrights Season

the University of Massachusetts-Amherst before moving to San Diego, where she became one of the city's first female firefighters. After moving to San Francisco, she helped found Brava! for Women in the Arts in 1986 as a volunteer support organization. Brava has grown into a multifaceted professional theater and training program that is just finishing renovations on its home in the former York Theatre.

Gavin's skills as an organizer have been repeatedly tested as various financial, political, and structural calamities have befallen the long-aborning project. "The building is pretty much done," she said. "It's still a struggle everyday, but we've exceeded our box office expectations for the year already. So far, three shows and three hits. Now I just hope people find Tina's story as fascinating as I do."

*Apertura Modotti* will run through May 20. Call 392-4400 for tickets.

### Womyn rising

As gay theater moves toward the mainstream, it's nice to note that the Luna Sea Women's Performance Project still reveres the movement's radical roots. The three short plays that make up its second annual Lesbian Playwrights' Season deal with socially charged themes in black women's lives that don't offer up the fuzzy glow of assimilation. Their umbrella title is *Good Friday 13th*

### UpRising ... Rising Up.

Shirlene Holmes' *The Calling* features Pam Dunn and Claudia L. Vierra Allen as an interracial lesbian couple dealing with the aftermath of a sexual assault, the recognition of their own racism, and their struggle as a couple.

Holmes, an associate professor at Georgia State University, is also the author of *Like Father*, in which Pippa Fleming plays a black lesbian troubled by her abusive relationship with her father. Her play *Butch and Femmie* was produced in Luna Sea's DykeDrama Festival 2000.

In Carolyn Gage's *Harriet Tubman Visits a Therapist*, the legendary freedom fighter (played by Yolanda S. Vierra Allen) is forced to visit a contemporary therapist (Pam Dunn) by a man who enslaves them both. Gage is the author of more than 30 lesbian theater works, including two plays previously produced at Luna Sea.

The trio of plays, directed by Claudia Vierra Allen and T. Kebo Drew, will run through April 28 at Luna Sea's home at 2940 16th St. Call 863-2388.

### Spelunking

There is a new generation of musical-theater composers that seems intent on creating anti-entertainment. One member of this pack is Adam Guettel, who found critical approbation for his 1996 musical *Floyd Collins*. You can give the guy credit for exploring new territories, but there is a difference between challenging listeners and tormenting them.

TheatreWorks is offering the Bay Area premiere of *Floyd Collins* in its admirable policy of straying from tried-and-true in its musical choices. Director Robert Kelley's production is a stylish, solidly performed affair that still couldn't prevent a noticeable number of defections at the intermission.

Based on the true story of the media frenzy that builds around efforts to free a trapped explorer in a Kentucky cavern in 1925, the tale builds some momentum in its storytelling — momentum that is dashed whenever anyone starts to sing. It's a musical-theater axiom that characters should sing when words alone can no longer contain their emotions. In *Floyd Collins*, the emotions are best served when Guettel is silenced.

*Floyd Collins* will run at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts through May 6. Call (650) 903-6000. ▼

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# Here and now

## 'Night Waltz' at the Roxie Cinema

by Michael McDonagh

The American writer Paul Bowles (1910-1999) had two lives, one as a writer and one as a composer. Most people discover him first through the writing and then through the music, and that's the route I took. Story collections like *The Delicate Prey* (1950) were stark but also memorable, and the travel book he wrote with his wife Jane, *Their Heads Are Green and Their Hands Are Blue* (1963), was really charming. I also found his poems, which his friend Gertrude Stein disliked, well-wrought and remarkably self-contained. That quality is abundantly present in Owsley Brown's new film *Night Waltz: The Music of Paul Bowles*, which is getting a one-week run at the Roxie starting April 20.

The writer-composer is definitely the star of this award-winning documentary. But Brown's picture, his first, wisely avoids the clichés of the form. There are no wall-to-wall talking heads explaining, when we really should be looking and listening. Bowles' music, after all, is largely unknown, and a talking-heads approach wouldn't let the audience discover it. A visual point of view was obviously necessary, but what kind?

Brown, whom I talked with at an Italian café on Union Street, wrestled long and hard with this

problem. "I wanted to include as much music as possible," he said, "but also needed images which would make the listening experience meaningful. So I presented the idea to Paul Bowles, and he said, 'If I agree to participate, I'm gonna have some conditions,' and one of these was that his music would never be paired with any competing audio, and would need appropriate visual accompaniment, and that was left open. But he thought something that would be inappropriate would be having his music paired up with images of blowing sands in the Sahara."

Bowles lived in Tangier, Morocco from 1947 until his death, and he was famous for his stories set there. But his musical style was formed by his early experience in New York. He was born in Jamaica, Queens, and wrote scores for plays by Tennessee Williams, Lillian Hellman, and others, influenced by his encounters with French music by composers like Satie, the Paris resident Stravinsky, and his teachers Aaron Copland and Virgil Thomson. Jazz and the American popular song had a big effect, too.

### Island life

All these experiences inspired Bowles. So Brown chose to visualize his pieces with music sequences which function like "little islands in the film." And nobody, not even the composer, talks over them. The director enlisted San

Francisco-based experimental filmmaker Nathaniel (Nick) Dorsky as one of his five cinematographers and as his editor. Dorsky's sequences reference locations central to Bowles: Oaxaca (Mexico), Paris, and Tangier. Brown also needed to show the composer's New York, but wasn't sure if shooting it 50 years after Bowles lived there would work. Dorsky came to the rescue by suggesting his friend Rudy Burckhardt (1914-1999), who was the subject of a recent retrospective at NYU's Grey Art Gallery. "Rudy simply gave me footage with all the rights but no fee — I paid nothing — and said, 'Do with them what you please!'"

Three of Burckhardt's amazingly fluid shorts, *Under the Bridge* (1953), *The Climate of New York* (1948), and *Up and Down the Waterfront* (1946), appear in *Night Waltz*. Burckhardt's images are so artless they seem artful, and they're a perfect match for the piquant harmonies and odd rhythms of Bowles' Sonata for Oboe and Clarinet (1930-31). Fifteen other pieces, in whole or in part, are also included.

Dorsky's own contributions have a similar independence of spirit, and his style is equally unconventional. Familiar things surprise — trees in blossom; old women, glimpsed through branches, taking their walks in a Paris park. "I find his footage very



The music of composer Paul Bowles is explored in *Night Waltz*.

beautiful," Brown said, "and what struck me immediately was that it had so much heart — you really feel a connection with the people you're looking at. And that's the experience I think that Bowles had when he first went to Paris and walked nonstop and just soaked it in. Nick has to make editorial decisions based on the here and now, and he wanted there to be as direct an experience as possible

between the audience and the screen."

*Night Waltz* achieves that goal. It feels personal, too. Or maybe I should say intelligent and personal, which is no mean thing in our gotta-run age. ▼

**Night Waltz: The Music of Paul Bowles** plays the Roxie April 20-26.

## 'Queer' at ODC

◀ previous page

most unresponsive love object, Eugene Allerton, a young man of sullen good looks and aloof (not to mention alcoholic and heroin-addicted) behavior. At first, Kramer seemed an odd choice for the part, being perhaps older and more rugged in appearance than the novel suggests Allerton to be. Rather than a corrupt, pretty kid, Kramer embodied the character of a jaded young tough, sullen in the way Brad Davis was as the sailor/sexf object in *Querelle*. Yet Kramer pulled it off well, keeping himself aloof but never wooden. His sexuality was palpable, and you could understand why Lee obsessed over him.

Lending weight and powerful vocals to various character parts was Ken Berry, his acting and singing abilities indispensable to the overall tone and success of the piece. This is Berry's second production with Wold, after playing the father in Wold's *A Little Girl Dreams of Taking the Veil*.

### Dance play

Dancers doubling as characters — the lovely Stacey Em Jackson, Zenón Barrón, and Norberto Mar-

tinez — popped in and out of the scenes gracefully, artfully merging dance and drama. At one moment, they served as foils to Lee's lusty imagination; the next, they were creating evocative tableaux on the deep, beautifully-lit stage. The set, with benches, tables, and bar at the front of the stage, and an alluring bed toward the rear, allowed much space for the dancers, and choreographer Cid Pearlman made great use of the openings. Barrón and Martinez paired off frequently in sensuous danceplay that formed a backdrop to Lee and Allerton's goings-on. Especially in the show's second act, together with Jackson, they infused the production with a sexy perfume of teasing, come-hither looks and slow-motion seductions.

*Queer*, the chamber opera, conveys the story of a queer American bum South of the Border in the 1940s as artfully as *Queer*, the novel. One might have expected a musical version of the book to incorporate grunge rock, jazz, blues, or tango — but a chamber opera? It works, and that's all the encouragement anyone should need to check out an instant classic. ▼

*Queer* runs through April 22 at ODC Theater, 3153 17th St. Tickets are \$18. 863-9834.

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## Cobra Woman

◀ Arts cover

dance for King Cobra, during which worshipers raise a hand to their foreheads and twist it in imitation of the snake's writhing — the Cobra Salute!

### Volcano trash

Hava, who, it turns out, is not blind and not evil (but is mute), takes Ramu to meet the island's aging Queen (Mary Nash). She explains that Tollea and Nadja are her twin granddaughters; Tollea is the older and by right the High Priestess, but she nearly died when bitten by King Cobra as an infant, and was hidden on-board MacDonald's boat to escape the island. Understandably stunned, Ramu asks why they have brought her back. Because Nadja has become a tyrant, despotically demanding ever-increasing amounts of gold and throwing more people into the volcano. The Queen wants Tollea to depose her sister and become High Priestess.

The unfolding plot provides many highlights. Montez, as Nadja, is hot for the beefy Ramu, who still thinks she's Tollea. Says Nadja, "The eyes of love are sharp, but they can be deceived. The lips, never." Later, when the Queen orders Nadja to abdicate in favor of her sister, explaining about their separation at birth, Nadja refuses, dismissing the story as "a wild dream of her decaying brain!" The confrontation between Tollea and Nadja is deliriously surreal, as the good sister tells her twin to "Give me that Cobra jewel!" Nadja's second in command, the equally evil and rapacious Martok (Edgar Barrier), realizes too late that Tollea has donned the High Priestess'



'Cobra Woman' Maria Montez in 1947

robes.

Montez gives a single performance despite playing twins, yet moves and speaks with the authority of a true diva. A better ac-

spiced by Olsen's sonorous brogue. Chaney is luckier. Like Coco the chimp, he has no dialogue — just an occasional grunt.

Director Robert Siodmak, who

**Montez gives a single performance despite playing twins, yet moves and speaks with the authority of a true diva.**

treess could not bring such conviction to the part. Her remarkably inept dancing is supremely confident. Ignoring considerable evidence to the contrary, she poses like the greatest of femme fatales. As Nadja, she silences opposition with an imperious, "I have spoken!" Seldom has a star inhabited her own world with such serene and oblivious abandon.

The rest of the cosmopolitan cast is almost as remarkable as Montez, a native of the Dominican Republic. The thickset Hall takes all the goings-on quite seriously, blending his American accent with her Spanish one. The ever cheerful Sabu, born in India, adds his pidgin English to the mix ("I are coming!"), which is further

later made some decent films (*The Dark Mirror* with Olivia de Havilland, and *The Killers* with Burt Lancaster and Ava Gardner, both 1946), ignores logic but keeps the action moving. Richard Brooks, who would direct and adapt *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (1958), *Elmer Gantry* (1960), and *Sweet Bird of Youth* (1962), was co-author, along with the obscure Gene Lewis. He slips in a few anti-fascist barbs. Vera West designed the mad costumes, which have never been equaled for variety and cheesy incongruity. All of them must have known they were making a demented classic. Fortunately, they didn't communicate that to the actors.

I have spoken. ▼

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## SF Film Festival

### Arts cover

afterwards, but don't miss *Chop Suey*. (Kabuki, 4/27-28; PFA, 4/30)

### South park

At the end of *Southern Comfort*, we hear the words, "Nature delights in diversity. Why don't human beings?" By this time, we already know the heartbreaking answer. We first meet Robert Eads driving his pickup through the backwoods of Georgia, puffing on a pipe while joking about getting a recent invitation to join the local version of the Klan. "I imagine there would be quite a scene if I walked into a meeting and disclosed who I really am." Who Eads really is infuses this moving and nicely restrained portrait of a new kind of family headed up by a new kind of man. Eads, a 52-year-old female-to-male transsexual, is suffering from terminal ovarian cancer, the result of a botched operation. He plays his last year before filmmaker Kate Davis' videocamera. A loving and remarkably good-humored man, Eads loves his male-to-female partner, Lola Cola; his female-to-male son, Max; his two biological sons; and his 3-year-old grandson, who, he says, is the only person on Earth who sees him as he is now rather than who he was.

Davis manages to dramatize the battles transgendered people face, especially with the medical profession. Several doctors refused Eads treatment on the grounds that it might upset their other patients. Max complains bitterly that the doctors performing reconstructive surgery deliberately avoid making new body parts look and feel like the real thing. The film gets its title not from the drink, but from the annual meeting of transgendered Southerners that in the end becomes Eads' reason for living. Davis tactfully captures painful splits within the transgendered community. An FTM delegate, feeling shut out of the meeting's inner councils, complains, "It really hurts when the only people in the world who should know you don't fully understand." (Kabuki, 4/27-28)

A botched operation is the inciting incident for a very different look at a transgendered protagonist. *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* plays like a Fassbinder-directed update of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. The German-born Hedwig (director John Cameron Mitchell, reprising his off-Broadway role) was born on the wrong side of the Wall. Seduced by a smooth-talking American Army sergeant, Hedwig gets the cruelest cut of all, resulting in the angry inch that propels him into the netherworld of punk/neo-glam rock. Hedwig's "love child," a pouty rocker named Tommy, steals his heart, his songs and the spotlight. Hedwig's best moments are the Angry Inch Band's efforts to shadow Tommy's stadium concerts by appearing in a third-rate national chain of seafood restaurants. Intense closeups, a pounding but literate rock score, and surrealistic renderings of scenes that could only be imagined on stage give *Hedwig* some crowd-pleasing zest while subtracting from some of the pathos of the theatre piece. (Castro, 4/21)

### Beach cruise

A first-time French feature provides a slightly more traditional date night at the movies. *Come Undone* (*Presque Rien*) is the story of Mathieu (Jeremie Elkaim), a recent high-school graduate whose summer at the beach is interrupted by the heavy cruise of Cedric (Stephane Rideau),



Jeremie Elkaim and Stephane Rideau in *Come Undone*

a flamboyantly out boy who, unlike Mathieu, is not college-bound. At first, all is well with young love as Cedric draws Mathieu out of his shell (if not his closet) and away from the orbit of his mostly female and somewhat screwed-up family. But, in a narrative that artfully flashes back and forward, Mathieu starts to develop cold feet as his beachboy lover displays a reckless disregard for safety and propriety. A nicely handled twist ending leaves some hope in a love story that is both complex and delightfully explicit. (Kabuki, 4/25-26)

Anybody going to *Keep the River on Your Right: A Modern Cannibal Tale* to see anything about cannibals is going to be severely disappointed. Anybody wishing to see the makings of a fascinating post-modern celebrity, however, will have a lot to chew on. When he first left New York in the '50s for an anthropological trip into mostly unexplored parts of Peru, Tobias Schneebaum was the classic ugly duckling of a gay man: he had lost

interest in his first love, painting, and was having little luck in replacing it with more carnal pleasures. Schneebaum's trip to Peru and later expedition to New Guinea put both him and the tribes he cohabited with on the map. The slight whiff of scandal did him no harm on the talk-show circuit. In the film he notes dryly, "It was easier to talk about cannibalism than homosexuality." Two of the film's best moments are depicting the worst of Charlie Rose and the best of Norman Mailer (a Greenwich Village neighbor whom Schneebaum called to dispose of a dead mouse).

Filmmakers David and Laurie Green Shapiro build suspense about Schneebaum's reluctance to return to his old digs and old loves in both Latin America and Indonesia. Witty fun is had also at the expense of such "primitive cultures" as Nathan's Famous in Coney Island and the world of luxury cruise ships where the elderly Schneebaum talks for his supper. (Kabuki, 4/25-26)



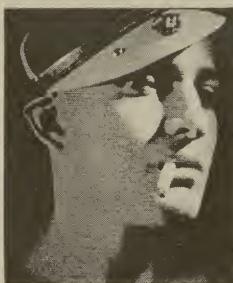
Cat-fighting and the world of Japanese women's wrestling in *Gaea Girls*.

Gay film pioneer Kenneth Anger's short films have never been as accessible as notorious *Hollywood Babylon* books. But don't pass up this rare opportunity to see Anger's *Magick Lantern Cycle*, nine films made between 1947 and '80. Still stunning is *Fireworks*, the then-

teenage Anger's bold depiction of a young man's deflowering at the hands of really hunky sailors. With incredible aplomb, Anger positioned himself in the top ranks of this country's then-nascent underground film world. (Castro, 4/22)

Fans of *Dream Girls* and *Shirinjuku Boys* will enjoy *Gaea Girls*, a no-holds-barred examination of the fast-paced world of Japanese women's wrestling. (Kabuki, 4/20, 5/1-2)

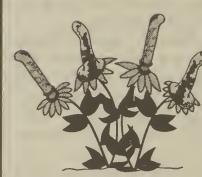
Finally, the San Francisco Ballet co-sponsors a specially-restored print of *Don Quixote*, the first film directed by Rudolf Nureyev. (Kabuki, 4/29-30). ▼



Anger's *Magick Lantern Cycle*

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# Rockin' at the River

by Mister Marcus

It was another one of those weekends where you just had to be there to savor the flavor of a hell-bent-for-fun leather weekend. The Russian River Eagle was the focus of the action where the second Mr. Russian River Eagle contest was taking place. Perhaps Mama and her Boys were the biggest contingent, but there were a lot of "city" people cavorting in Guerneville, including Queen Cougar and Mark Frazier, owner of the Dallas Eagle (on his way to Hawaii for a much-needed vacation).

Three men were vying for the title: Rodger Jensen, Kermit Kenn and Barry Rogers. Graylin Thornton and T. Jay Cain emceed, and interspersed between the scoring segments of the competition, Danny Williams did two hilarious comedy routines that had the audience howling. Jake the Snake had everything down pat, and even imported Tim Wong to be the tally master and Joe Gallagher as the head judge.

The judging interviews were open to the entire audience at the beginning of the program, and it proved to be an eye-opener for contest mavens who have never witnessed this procedure anywhere on the Left Coast.

The audience endured a verbal duel between T. Jay and Graylin throughout the entire show, and it's hard to say who "topped" who in the war of words, but it did get just a wee bit tiresome after awhile. Nevertheless, the audience seemed to love it. The contestants went through the mandatory formal wear, speeches (only one minute), jock attire and a question-answering segment.

When the scoring was done and the points tallied, Fred Wehman, Mr. Russian River Eagle Leather 2001, gave the shortest step-down speech to date — only four minutes! It was flawless.

Before the announcement of the winner was made, the raffle drawing raised some \$833 for the AEF of Sonoma County — the amount was boosted to a cool \$1,000 when Bob Brunson made a cash donation. Big applause!

Finally, the envelope was brought to the stage and it was hardly a surprise that Rodger Jensen scored the highest number

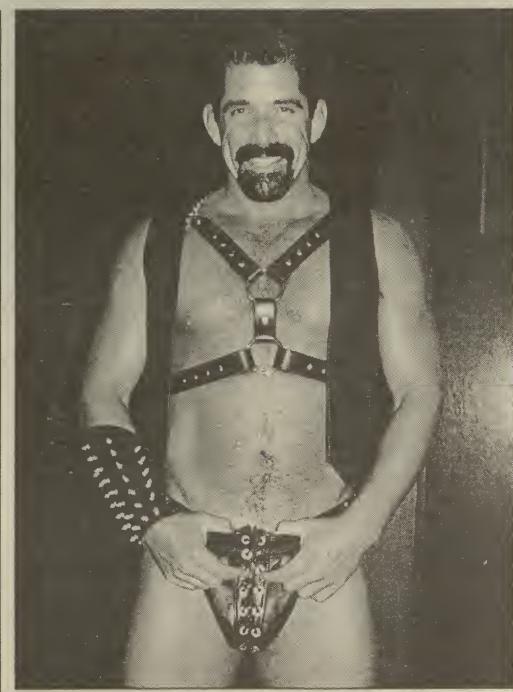


Photo Credit

Roger Jenson captured the 20001 Russian River Eagle Leather title last Saturday night, April 14 in Guerneville and will probably compete in the Mr. North Coast Leather 2001 title later this year.

of non-Olympic points to win the title vest and the applause of the audience. Rodger may compete at the Mr. North Coast Leather contest later this year, but for now, his title will be put to work for charities in the Russian River Area.

### Meanwhile in Virginia

While all this was going on, they were wailing in Virginia Beach, Virginia, too where the Knight Hawks MC staged the 2001 Virginia Drummer and Drummer Boy contests. The details are sketchy, if not lacking, but know that David Black of Norfolk, Virginia is Mr. Virginia Drummer 2001 and Brian Harrison of Richmond, Virginia is the Virginia Drummer Boy. They will compete next at the Mid-Atlantic Drummer 2001 contest in Baltimore the weekend of July 6-8. Yes, my friends, Drummer Men and Boys are on the march to the finals to be held

in St. Petersburg, Florida the first weekend in October.

### Dildeaux City this Saturday

According to "informed sources" in the Golden Gate Guards MC, the voting was very heavy this year for the Golden Dildeaux Awards coming up this Saturday night, April 21 at the SF Eagle.

We were somewhat upset to learn that Ray Tilton will not be creating a costume for any one of the four categories in which he has been nominated due to his gimp leg; but he will be there even if he has to hobble to the stage to accept an award.

This is one of the campiest nights of the year in the SÔMA area, and proceeds go to a good cause. Lenny Broberg and Donna Sachet will emcee, and among the presenters is Queen Cougar, and the Wicked Witch of the East — Vern Stewart — is flying in on his broom to be one of the presenters. See you there? ▼

## EVENTURES IN LEATHER

### Thursday, April 19

Mr. November 2002 on the bare chest calendar will be chosen tonight, at 2100 hours at the Powerhouse. Judges are Bruce Chopnik, James Scott Geras and Mario Torrigino. Win \$100 cash; do your bit volunteering. It's a great cause!

### Weekend, April 20-22

In Oklahoma City, it's the Mr. Sooner State Leather contest at the Copia. Meet & greet on Friday; contest on Saturday; victory brunch on Sunday. For more info, email: [MrSoonerStateLthr@aol.com](mailto:MrSoonerStateLthr@aol.com).

In Los Angeles, the Regiment of the Black and Tans stage their annual Maneuvers uniform weekend. Lots of San Francisco people will be there for the event.

### Friday, April 20

The Exiles of SF stage their "Seduction & the Evil Bitch" program at the Women's Bldg., subtitled: "An Evening of Topping." Doors open 1930; program from 2000 to 2230.

Cigar Party at The Sling, with a \$20 cover charge. Party from 2200 to 0300. Doors close at

0200. All the amenities you need. For info, email: [hotdang@siurus.com](mailto:hotdang@siurus.com). The slogan for this one is "Get Dirty!"

### Saturday, April 21

Memorial Service for Philip Turner at Trinity Episcopal Church, followed by a huge celebration on closed-off Castro Street in front of Daddy's Bar. It was Philip's final request, and it is being honored. Leather celebs from all over the country are here already for the life celebration!

Constantines MC beer/soda bust at the Lone Star Saloon, 1500-1900, with a \$7 fee and no other details.

A Boot & Bondage party takes place at a private location for men interested in boots, bondage and fun (their words!). I am not at liberty to print the location, but if you've been before, you know already.

### Sunday, April 22

Inter-Club Fund Bike Day with a beer/soda bust at the Eagle for \$8 from 1500-1800 with a bike blessing at 1600.

## PORN

Real-life porn stars Blake Harper and Jason Branch in the theatrical version of *Shooting Porn*

## In the flesh

### 'Shooting Porn' at Victoria Theatre

by Richard Dodds

Turning movies into stage shows is nothing new. But I'm not sure anyone before Ronnie Larsen has taken a film documentary, cast it with actors to impersonate the real people, and then put it on a stage. That's what he's done with *Shooting Porn*, which is now an in-the-flesh fictionalized facsimile of his documentary of the same name.

This conversion ranks pretty high on the list of ideas that didn't demand realization. But that's not to say the production of *Shooting Porn* at the Victoria Theatre is not without its amusing moments. Most of them are provided by Larsen himself, who has cast himself as real-life porn director Chi Chi LaRue, and who is far funnier

as LaRue than LaRue was in the documentary.

The stage version, however, is definitely less erotic than was its screen cousin. Actually, with its intentional deconstruction of fantasy, the movie version wasn't all that titillating. But you still had hardcore action even as it was being shown to be more work than play. The sex, of course, is simulated on stage, and whatever libidinal qualities it might have had are negated for comic effect.

Real-life porn stars Blake Harper and Jason Branch play fictionalized versions of a different set of real-life porn stars who shared their secrets in the movie version. Here, their bitchiness and eye-rolling queeniness is emphasized to the extent that the occasional glimpses of their big cocks can provoke only small response.

J.T. Sloan is featured as himself, at least in name, to represent the gay-for-pay element in gay porn and to perform a so-so strip. Gabriel Macen completes the cast in multiple roles.

Larsen has proven his ability to create funny dialogue and situations in plays like *Ten Naked Men* and *Making Porn*, and he has layered a sitcom veneer onto many of the scenes to help counter the clunkiness of the dry informational moments. The ample actor-director-playwright has also given himself a horrifyingly hilarious scene that involves drag, Jennifer Holliday, and a bucket of Kentucky Fried Chicken. ▼

*Shooting Porn* will run at the Victoria Theatre through April 22. Tickets are \$25-\$35. Call (510) 601-8932.

## Blast from the past

by Sweet Lips

Well, I thought I'd better write again before people forget me! Your Lips was not too well recently, but I am on the mend. Wish to thank all who made it out to the BAR's party on April 1. It was a blast, and Mayor Willie Brown was very humorous!

Flash: The Giraffe on Polk Street has finally been ported — sold — an end to another institution. We wonder where Bob Golovich will sit and hold court now.

The Leland Hotel on Polkstrasse, after substantial remodel-

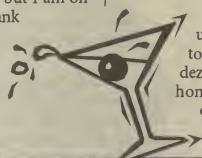
ing, is about to re-open after over two years. May 12 is the target date. Yours Truly is looking forward to the influx of tourists on the street again. Sounds like old times.

"You hear me?" Ronnie Lynn is having a family reunion party this Saturday, April 21, 4 p.m. to ? at the Club-Rendezvous. The soiree is in honor of the good old days of the Polk Gulch Saloon. The old PGS is now the Lush Lounge, a totally different scene but fabulous in its own way. Ronnie promises that lots of the old clients will show at his party — even the ones that she and Dolly Dale used to 86.

Thank you, "Sophie" of the Lucky Horseshoe Lounge (on North Halsted St. in Chicago) for the fabulous you-know-what. Sorry I couldn't talk longer on the phone. Come on back out for a visit now. Don Rogers would love to hear from you.

Empress Steve Rasher, David Kapp and Yours T. are going to Portland for a retirement party for Steve Suss of the Embers/Avenue on May 8. "Retirement" indeed, as he has been lucky to have a great staff doing his doity work all these years. Should be a hoot!

Remember, I am back on the plank and puttin' on the flank at the Club R-V on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturday at 8:30 a.m. ("Good morning, Bloody Mary!"), so come on down to Polkstrasse and stop on in. ▼



### Cocktail Hour

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San Francisco

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## ICF Bike Day

celebrate the new riding season with the

## Blessing of the Bikes

at the Eagle Tavern  
Sunday, April 22, 2001

the ICF will host the beverage benefit  
from 3:00 PM till 6:00 PM  
50/50 raffle  
good food

join us for a ride before the event  
the California Eagles are hosting a scooter around town  
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LEATHER BUDDIES

Wed., Jan. 24th

# OUT & ABOUT

## Calendare

by Mark Mardon



Dance Repertory SF in "Afterimages"

Marty Sato

### Dance frenzy

In anticipation of a special, Bay Area-wide arts event kicking off this Friday at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts—National Dance Week—I plowed through this newspaper's archive of dance photos, a reminder of local dance history. From Savage Jazz Dance Co. to Ronald K. Brown/Evidence, to Company Chaddick, to Kunst-Stoff, to Sonya Delwaide, to Scott Wells, to the SF Butoh Festival, the photos are proof we inhabit a rich environment for dance.

The images also made me realize how impossible it would be here to detail all the events, dancers, companies and locations participating in the dance fest. Fortunately, the good folks running the show have produced a splendid catalog, which you'll find at your local cafe or bookstore. Look for them for details of the many events, locations, companies, and dancers involved in this complex celebration. Just to whet your appetite, however, here are some of the high points:

The kick-off takes place at high noon on Friday, April 20, outdoors at **Yerba Buena Gardens**, with a colorful public parade featuring hundreds of dancers, stilt-walkers, giant puppets, musicians and more.

The celebrity chairman of the event is **Evelyn Cisneros**, who soared to stardom after joining the San Francisco Ballet in 1977, with the modest goal of "being happy to just be one of the four swans in *Swan Lake*."

Over the course of the week, at an A-Z list of locations around the Bay Area, you'll be able to partake of dance performances at virtually every dance space, with every dance company.

On Monday, April 23, at 7:30 p.m. in the Green Room of the War Memorial Building, the "Izzies" will be bestowed. These are the Isadora Duncan Dance Awards, offered in seven categories to Bay Area dancers, choreographers, their collaborators and composers, and others who contribute to dance. Admission is free. It's preceded at 6pm by a reception and exhibition, "**Dance in California**," at the SF Performing Arts Library & Museum.

Nominated for Choreography are: **Julia Adam** ("Night," SF Ballet); **Bill T. Jones** ("Fantasy in C Minor," Axis Dance Co.); **Jo Kreiter** with **Leslie Seifers** ("Face to Face" from "The Body Project," Flyaway Productions); **Patrick Makuakan** and **Yasmen Mehta** ("Pua," for Calif. Contemporary Dancers with Na Lei Hulu i ka Wekiu); **Robert Moses** ("Lucifer's Prance," Robert Moses Kin); and **Yuri Possokhov** ("Magrittomania," SF Ballet). ▼

For details about National Dance Week Open Studios 2001 (April 29-29), log on to [www.VoiceofDance.com](http://www.VoiceofDance.com)



Ancient forms of Japanese dance, music and textiles combine in "Hana Goromo" at the Asian Art Museum. See Sunday.

## Fri

### Space 743

Opening reception/performance: "As She Seems," installations, performance and video by Jann Nunn. Her bio states: "True to her conviction that concepts are succinctly articulated when reinforced by appropriately selected materials and their manipulation, Nunn's work resides in the conjoining of idea and aesthetic." Featuring new work in sculpture and video, plus a 1997 piece she created while in residence at Ateliera Hoherweg in Dusseldorf, Germany. Free. Reception 6-8pm; performance at 7pm. 743 Harrison St. Info: 777-9080.

### il Teatro 450

The Angst Ensemble presents "Life During Wartime" by Keith Reddin, an edgy black comedy about paranoia and corruption lurking beneath the slick surface of suburban America. \$18 Fri.; \$20 Sat.; \$15 Sun. Thru May 12. 449 Powell St., 3rd floor. Tix/info: 433-1172; [www.angstensemble.com](http://www.angstensemble.com)

### Noh Space

"Killing My Lobster Breaks the Bank," four weekends of comedic vignettes for the financially deluded. If it can be bought, sold, bartered or burgled, chances are it's in this show: morally bankrupt ad execs, cash-strapped casino-goers, economically diabolical super-villains, even dried-up dot-commers. \$15 (\$10 students). 8pm. Fri.-Sun. thru April 29; Thu.-Sun. May 3-

13. 2840 Mariposa St. (at Alabama). Tix/info: 267-0642; [www.killingmylobster.com](http://www.killingmylobster.com)

### Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, Berkeley

Kendra Kimbrough Dance Ensemble and Art of Ballet Dance Theater perform a dance concert in honor of Bay Area Celebrates National Dance Week. Also featuring local Hip-Hop heroes Housin' Authority and the Bantaba Dance Ensemble. A night of Brazilian, West African, Haitian, East Indian and African American music and dance. \$18 (\$16 students/seniors). 7pm. 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. Tix/info: (925) 798-1300; [www.kkde.org](http://www.kkde.org)

### AHP Services Center

"About Dating: Beyond the First Date," a workshop for gay and bisexual men (regardless of HIV status) to discuss the ins and outs of dating, particularly on the second and subsequent dates. First dates can be easy, but what happens next? Part of the REACH Program's Men Connecting workshop series. 6:30-9pm. 1930 Market St. RSVP: 476-6448, ext. 1.

## Sat

### HMI @ Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy

Special Event: "Happy Homos Health Summit." The Bay Area Gay and Queer Men's Health Collective presents "A Healthy Future for Gay and Queer Men," a one

day summit to encourage community health and wellness initiatives for gay and queer men. Workshops range from flag dancing to "Lines for Queer Boys" to yoga to ritual cleansing. The Collective is fiscally sponsored by The Harvey Milk Institute. \$5-10 sliding (NOTAFLO). 9:30am-4:30pm. Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy, corner of 19th St. (at Colfax); Registration: 552-7200 [www.HarveyMilk.org](http://www.HarveyMilk.org)

### Castro Theatre

Join members of *Gruppo Socio Cultural Hispano*, a social group for all Spanish speaking gay/bi men and their friends, for a 4pm screening of "Our Lady of the Assassins," the story of a man who falls in love with a 16-year-old boy while visiting a male brothel in Medellin, Colombia. Together they forge a romance and share their worlds, until the reality of Medellin sets in. Presented by the SF International Film Festival. Then join the members for a *Fiesta de Pascua* (Easter Fest), including potluck dinner and socializing, at a private home from 6:30-10:30pm. Movie tix: \$9.

Potluck-dinner contribution: \$10 (\$5 with dessert or drinks; free with plate of pasta or carne). Info: David Reyes at 621-7060; Bartolo at 824-8704.

### Duboce Park

"Duboce Park Centennial Party," in which Friends of Duboce park host a family party to celebrate the park's 100th anniversary. Featuring arts & crafts, entertainment, an exhibit of historic photos

of the park and Lower Haight neighborhood, a labyrinth, basketball tournament, and many kids' activities, including the grand opening of the new playground. Featuring the Gay Freedom Marching Band and other musical delights. Free. 11am-3pm. Duboce Ave. btwn Steiner & Scott streets.

### Paradise Lounge

San Francisco's top nu-metal band, Sparrows Point, celebrates the release of their new CD, *How Can You Blame Me?* These bastards sons of Iggy Pop and Kiss have become locally renowned for their aggressive, wild, over-the-top stage show, which have recently featured a mid-air crucifixion, a flying vocalist, confetti storms, and blinding lights. Viz, Cellophane Masses, Raising Cain, and Motorist also play. \$10. Doors at 9pm. 11th & Folsom Streets. Info: [www.sparrowspoint.org](http://www.sparrowspoint.org)

### Lake Merritt, Oakland

Come and row (or learn to row) with the San Francisco Bay Blades, the Bay Area's lesbian, gay, bisexual rowing club. Have you always wanted to learn to row? Are you an experienced rower and want to join a great club? Then come check out SF Bay Blades. Orientation at 10:30am. To sign up or learn more, call Vern Nuanez at (415) 588-8671 or e-mail Vern at [vnunez@hewm.com](mailto:vnunez@hewm.com); surf [www.sfbayblades.org](http://www.sfbayblades.org)

### Montclair Women's Cultural Arts Club, Oakland

In concert: Tret Fure, singer/songwriter and accomplished guitarist, known for the last 15 years as the recording and touring partner of Cris Williamson, now on tour with her new CD, *Back Home*. \$15 adv.; \$18 door. 7:30pm. 1650 Mountain Blvd., Oakland. Tix: (510) 339-1832.

### First Congregational Church, Alameda

Oakland East Bay Gay Men's Chorus, under the direction of Dick Kramer, holds its spring concert, "Love Bites," celebrating the many ways we express our love. \$10. 8pm. 1912 Central Ave. Tix/info: (510) 654-1122.

### Civic Center Park, Berkeley

"Berkeley Earth Day 2001." The Eco-Motion Parade starts at 11am, with kids and adults walking, biking, using electric go carts and cars, and other forms of non-polluting transport. The Earth Day Fair runs 12-5pm and features cultural performances by Ayawah (Turkish and Balkan music and dance; 12-1pm); Mingus Amungus (Latin jazz; 1:30-2:45pm); Speaker Rachel Peterson of Urban Ecology (2:45pm); Sherry Glaser (revolutionary comedy; 3-3:35pm); and Alice DiMiele

(environmental rock; 4-5pm). Plus: Climbing Wall; Kids Eco-Art-making area with East Bay Depot for Creative Reuse; Vegetarian food and organic beer; craft and community booths; Berkeley Farmers Market Family Farm Day. Free. 11am-5pm. Civic Center Park, Alston and MLK Jr. Way in downtown Berkeley. Take Berkeley BART, walk one block west. Valet bike parking by East Bay Bike Coalition. Info: (510) 654-6346; [www.BayAreaEarthDay.net](http://www.BayAreaEarthDay.net)

### Sanitary Fill Company

Artist's reception: "Work from the Dump," selected works Donna Keiko Ozawa, artist-in-residence at the Sanitary Fill. Featuring live music by the Bottomfeeder. Ozawa is a visual artist and musician born in 1963 and raised in SF. She is a Sansei (third generation Japanese American) and the second daughter of *Nisei* (second generation) parents. For more than seven years Ozawa worked as a social service provider and advocate for battered women, people with AIDS/HIV, the homeless and GLBTQ youth. In 1988, she co-founded LYRIC, the Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center. In 1990, she directed the first federally funded queer youth and family substance abuse prevention program, LYFE (Lambda Youth and Family Empowerment) at Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services. The Artist in Residence Program at Sanitary Fill Co. inspires and educates people about recycling and resource conservation by providing local artists with access to materials, work space, and other resources at the company's Solid Waste Transfer and Recycling Center. Free. 1-5pm; tour the facility at 3pm. 401 Tunnel Ave. Info: 330-1415;

## Syn

### SF Hiking Club

Join other outdoor lovers for a Mt. Olympia hike and enjoy the great views and beautiful wild flowers from Mt. Diablo's north slope. It's a moderately strenuous 10-11 mile hike with a 2,700-ft. elevation gain. Meet 9am under the large Safeway sign at Market and Dolores Streets. Club info: 487-6410; [www.shiking.com](http://www.shiking.com)

### Lake Merritt United Methodist Church, Oakland

Oakland East Bay Gay Men's Chorus, under the direction of Dick Kramer, holds its spring concert, "Love Bites," celebrating the many ways we express our love. \$10. 7pm. 1330 Lakeshore Ave. Tix/info: (510) 654-1122.



Artist Jann Nunn presents an installation, performance and video at Space743. See Friday.



Nu-metal sensation Sparrows Point celebrate the release of their new CD, *How Can You Blame Me?* See Saturday.

#### Asian Art Museum

Special event: "Hana Goromo (Flower Garment) Series I, 2001," a new Japanese collaborative performance piece. Featuring gagaku (court music and dance characterized by absolute stylization and extreme seriousness) and *Jiutai-mai* (Dance of the Courtesans), as well as a *biwa* (Japanese lute) concert. Presenting visiting artists Shisui Arai, Asako Miyaji, Mami Matsugami, and Yoho Furusawa. Unique set of dyed silk fabric and handmade Washi (Japanese paper) by director/textile designer Kyoko Matsumoto and set designer/painter Hitoshi Matsumoto. Co-presented with the Japan Society. Free with museum admission (\$7 adults; \$5 seniors; \$4 youth). 2pm. Trustees' Auditorium, 75 Tea Garden Dr., Golden Gate Park. Info: 379-8800; www.asianart.org. This event will also be presented on April 24 at Noh Space (see Tuesday).

#### Mon 23

#### Piaf's Restaurant & Cabaret

QComedy.com presents "Gay Comedy Showcase at Piaf's," this week hosted by comedian Karen Ripley. Plus Pippi Lovestocking, Nick Leonard, Heather Gold, Yann Abeba, Bridget Schwartz, and more. \$5. 8pm. 1686 Market St. (at Gough). No reservations necessary. Info: 541-5610.

#### HMI @ Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy

Harvey Milk Institute class begins: "Sex Writing for Queer Men" with Simon Sheppard (5 Mondays; 7-9:30pm; \$115). 4235 19th St. (at Collingwood). Registration/info: 552-7200; www.harvymilk.org

#### Tue 24

#### SF PALM

San Francisco Performing Arts Library and Museum (SF PALM) presents "Paris After Dark: Can-Can to Cabaret," with guest lecturer William Eddelman, Associate Professor of Drama at Stanford University. Learn about cabarets, music halls, cafes, the Moulin Rouge, Montmartre, and the world of performers during the age of the Avant-garde, 1875-1905. In conjunction with Legion of Honor exhibit, "Toulouse-

Lautrec & the Spirit of Montmartre." Wine, cheese, and baguettes served. \$15 gen'l; \$12 seniors; \$10 SF PALM members; \$5 students. 401 Van Ness Ave., 4th floor. Reservations (required): 255-4800. Info: www.sfpalm.org

#### New Conservatory Theatre Center

"The Fisherman and the Flounder," a Japanese Kabuki-style version of the classic Grimm's fairytale, geared toward ages kindergarten through 4th grade. Written by Richard Scoum; directed by Gwen Loeb. \$5 per youth for groups of 10 or more; \$7 children; \$10 adults. 10am & 11:15am Tue., Wed., & Thu.; 11am & 1:30pm Sat. thru May 10. Van Ness Ave. at Market St., lower lobby. Tix/info: 861-4914; www.nctcsf.org

#### Noh Space

Theatre of Yugen presents "Hana Goromo (Flower Garment) Series I, 2001," your last chance to see this special presentation of traditional Japanese music and dance. See Sunday Asian Art Museum listing. \$10-\$15 sliding. 8pm. 2840 Mariposa St. (btwn Alabama & Florida). Tix: 621-7978.

#### Amnesia

"Club K.Y.," a new monthly queer party space featuring DJs Spike & Mike mixing up indie-rock, Britpop, and alternative sounds. Hosted by Jo. No cover (donations appreciated). 9pm-2am. 853 Valencia St. (at 20th St.). Info: 970-8336.

#### NOMA @ Light

"Scope," a dance party with DJs KJ and Anon, with weekly special guests, located in the evolving NOMA @ Light, which contributes to this clever bar where music, art, culture and people fuse to create an inviting atmosphere. The night begins chilled with loungecore and mind beats, then melds into breaks and trance. Free b4 10pm; \$3 after. 6pm-2am (6-10pm—LoungeCore/Mindbeat; 10-2am trance & breaks); 21+ w/ID. 839 Geary St.

#### Wed 25

#### HMI @ Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy

Harvey Milk Institute workshop: "Making the Most of Your Midlife: For Women," with Pat Chambers (1 day only; 6:30-9:30pm; \$25). 4235 19th St. (at Colling-

wood). Registration/info: 552-7200; www.harvymilk.org

#### Thu 26

#### Jack Adams Hall, Cesar Chavez Student Center, SFSU

The Queer Alliance presents "Seven-Inch Heels and a Microphone: A Queer Alliance/Cindy Kolb AIDS Fund Benefit Show." Enjoy drag queens, drag kings, and performers galore. Non-alcoholic "mocktails" provided by the SFSU AIDS Coordinating Committee. The Queer Alliance, by various names, has been a fixture at SFSU for 31 years. Its mission is "to help queer students view themselves positively and to reflect that positive self-image to the campus and community at large through educational and political outreach." \$5 students; \$7 gen'l. 1600 Holloway Ave. (at 19th Ave.). Info: 338-1952; email: queer@sfsu.edu.

#### ODC Theater

POTRZEBIE Dance Project and Artistic Director Chris Black explore ten years of choreography in a full evening of sleek, witty, sensuous, intelligent dance pieces. Black's distinctive style, influenced by both ballroom and jazz, has drawn rave reviews. As this paper previously reported: "The pieces Chris choreographs for POTRZEBIE [the name refers obscurely to Mad Magazine cartoon] incorporate a compelling mix of toughness and fragility, tension and release, stops and starts . . . and simmering eroticism." Black consistently questions images of gender, power, and the relationship of individual to society. With special guests OnSite Dance Company. Featuring dancers Black, Jenny McAllister, Ken James, Nicole Desoye, Monique Jenkins, David Balsley, Kevin Clarke, and Erin Mel-ling Stuart. With an original score by Erik Pearson on Black's celebrated piece, "You Never Cried" (1998). \$15. 8pm. Also Fri. & Sat. April 27-28. 3153 17th St. (at Shattuck). Tix/info: 863-9834; www.odc-dance.org/theater

#### Castro Theatre

Back by popular demand: "Sing-A-Long Sound of Music," an interactive musical phenomenon, your chance to dress up and sing along with the Von Trapp family. Give Julie Andrews and Marni

Nixon a musical run for their money. Lyrics subtitled. \$20. 7pm. This event will also run June 29-July 7. Castro St. at Market. Tix/info: www.ticketweb.com; (510) 601-TWEB.

#### HMI @ Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy

Harvey Milk Institute class begins: "Middle Eastern Queer Experience," with Lina Baroudi (4 Thursdays; 7-9pm; \$75). 4235 19th St. (at Collingwood). Registration/info: 552-7200; www.harvymilk.org

#### Q Restaurant/Gershwin Theater

Lamplighters Music Theatre and Q Restaurant host "The Lamplighters Supper Club: An Evening of Fine Foods, Wine, and Musical Theatre." Waltz into springtime with the Lamplighters' elegant production of Stephen Sondheim's "A Little Night Music." Begin the evening at 5:30pm at Q Restaurant (225 Clement St.), where chef/owner Andrew Gillen prepares a special menu. Then on to the show at the intimate Gershwin Theater on the USF campus (2350 Turk Street, just west of Masonic). Curtain at 8pm. Supper Club tickets are \$50 per person and include dinner plus admission to the show. Seating limited; reservations required. Contact Debra at the Lamplighters: 227-4797. Info: www.lamplighters.org

#### The Stud

"Reform Skool," a queer dance space featuring DJs Jeff Chandler, Spun, Popp, Discovery and special guests spinning uplifting, cutting-edge house music. A free-spirited party atmosphere with eye-catching go boys. Free b4 10:30pm; \$5 after; open till 4am. At 9th & Harrison.

#### WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

Mark Mardon  
Out & About  
Bay Area Reporter  
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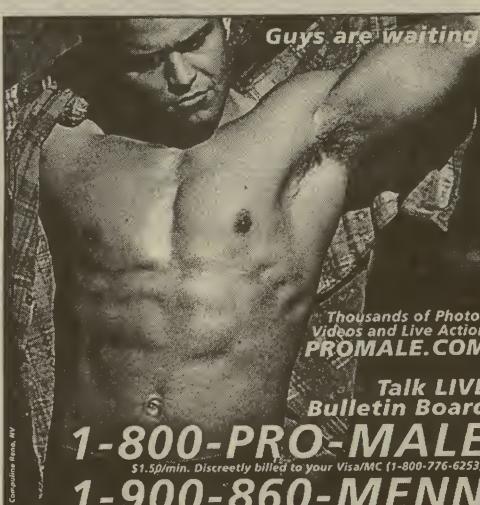


DANCING EVERY NIGHT  
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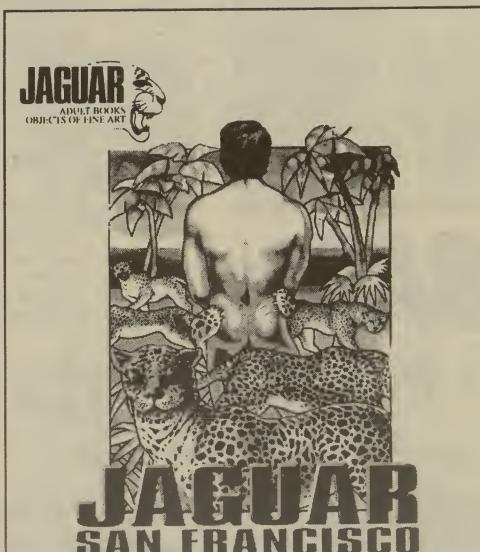
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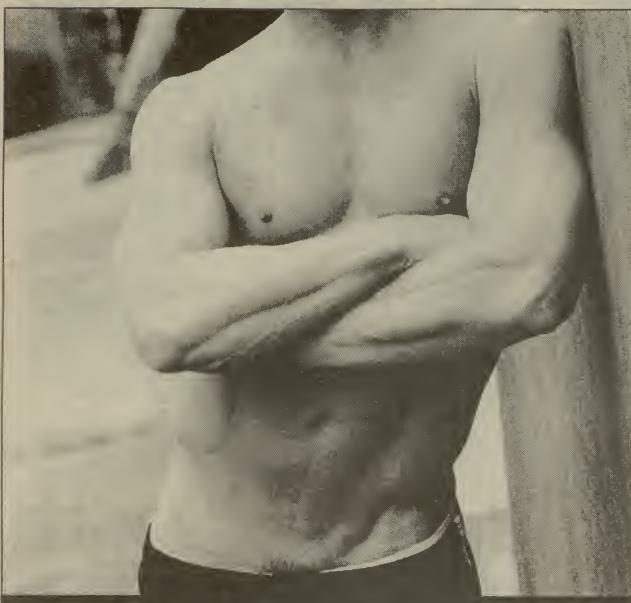
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## PARTING GLANCES

### Berkeley Bart To SF 3/7

We both sat in back, eye contact, existed at Powell St. Station. You hand-some Latino red & grey sweater. I Black male in blue sweater, too shy, call me. ☎ 71089

**Buddies, Thursday Nite March 8th**  
You- Jerry's comedic partner, Me: Mr. Pineapple- Guava lube- kissing you was stellar- would like to again. Call me. ☎ 71090

**Imperial Coronation Alexis Luv**  
You walk across the gallery at the coronation. A lovely sight to behold to me, you look like an Imperial Princess. Can we meet for tea? ☎ 71091

**"Dasher", Watergarden 2/26**  
We had the greatest time. You work early. I'll drive north. Please call. ☎ 71092

**"Redi" from Sam Mateo's**  
Mon. March 5, "Buena Vista Park", I can't forget your beautiful butt, legs and kisses. "Let's try again". Please call. ☎ 71093

**Eric @ Badlands, Sunday 3/11**  
You: New Castle Brown, San Francisco. Me: Tanqueray and Tonic, New York, New Zealander. Together we drank shots. Let's be friends. Richard. ☎ 71112

**Fr 3/16 Cont'l 11:30a NY To SF**  
U seat 14D, I in row ahead of U. Tall, green vest. U let me in row on exit. Wanted to talk; deaf from landing. Prepare for take off? 12F1 ☎ 71114

**~Fiddler On The Roof 2/27~**  
We saw each other before show, during intermission, and after. I wanted to give you my business card, but you were gone. You, very handsome, dark featured. I have trimmed beard and with a woman w/red hair. ☎ 71116

**Ryan At Pilsner~ Thurs Mar 15**  
You: VGL and nice. Me: Longish dark hair entertaining another. Wanted to entertain you. My friend hitting on you but you seemed interested in me. Let's meet again. ☎ 71117

**Guy @ Next Table Nirvana, 3/18**  
You: GWM, quicksilver on shirt sleeve. Me: GAM, red shirt, asked what you were having, very attracted to you. Eye contact. You winked as you left. You & I, dinner? ☎ 71118

**Tuesday 3/6 6am, Not Quite Dawn**  
You walking down 22nd St toward Eureka- I was walking small dog across the street. We both turned and cruised a few times. What about a early morning run before work. ☎ 71119

**Asian With Letter Tattoos on Chest**  
Looked at each other several times in locker room and nodded hello. Me: White male with blonde hair and muscular build. Lets connect. ☎ 71144

**Dolores Park, ~ Jan 2**  
Garret, hospitalized that night. Just out. Call me before April 15th. Still need web site & manuscript back. ☎ 71115

**The Sling 2/24? or 3/3?**  
I'm the novice who got on my knees for you. I gave you my phone # and I told you I would call. I lost your # that night and would like to re-connect. ☎ 71145

**3/31 #35 Eureka**  
You: Tall, olive t-shirt, youthful, headphones, handsome. Me: S/P hair, a tad chunky, older, attractive. We exchanged shy smiles. Can we meet? Please call. ☎ 71165

**Gap Store- Powell St. Sat. Aft.**  
Saturday afternoon, 3/31, you: dark hair, with friend. Me: with kids, short pants. Looked, looked back. In store and at register. Dinner? ☎ 71183

**Sun 3/11 Blow Buddies**  
Jim- I had a great time. Don't know you're available, but would like to see you. S. ☎ 71113

**Bev & More Parklot 3/19 7pm**  
You: Husky sexy Black guy, red t-shirt, Volvo. Me: White guy, limp w/cane, loading trunk burgundy Camry. We smiled, nodded hello. Too shy to talk, let me try again. ☎ 71146

**Rancher Seeking John, You Called**  
Hi John. You answered my ad. You didn't leave an area code. Please call again with phone number. ☎ 71147

**Jeff The Wine Rep Call Gary**  
We met Sat afternoon 3/17, in front of Harvest Market. Talked about travel & books. Let's meet for coffee. ☎ 71148

**"Rob" Attn Daytime Cock sucker**  
You: 5'9", 190#, 47rys, Blk/Blu, clean shave. U answered ad #72879 on 3-27-01. Unable to reach you at the # you left. Pls call. ☎ 71166

**Lombard Office H&R Block Apr.**  
Joining inside after you almost flipped my bike in the rain, we signed papers for tax women. Smiling, you said goodbye, leaving me fixated on your chin-stubbed face. ☎ 71181

**~Brandon From Scott Street~**  
First Harvey's, then in our neighborhood. Been hoping to hear from you, so trying this! Dinner, show, or drink? Ron ☎ 71182

## SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

**Buddy Wanted**  
5'11", 198, br, br, HIV+, top. ISO hot white bottom bubble butts, for get-togethers. 40+, HIV+, no games, n/d, n/d. ☎ 71068

**Let's Take Our Time**  
GBM, lean toned & fit, 38. You 25-45, fit, versatile, n/d, in-shape. I'm funny, out going. Want more than a quick unsatisfying encounter. HIV+. Want sensual romantic type. Non kissers need not apply. ☎ 71068

**Quiet GWM 54 Seeks Same**  
GWM 54, 5'9", 175lbs seeks GWM 45 to 65 preferably Fremont or So. Bay Area to go to movies, dinner, etc. LTR. ☎ 71069

**Good Man With Big Dick**  
Masculine HIV-neg 6'3", 165lbs, gym-toned, mid-50's GWM with beautiful 9 1/2 cock ISO one HIV-negative NS/ND muscle bottom for on-going sexual friendship. ☎ 71070

**Nice GWM 39yo Prof Seeks LTR**  
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# Lackluster fortnight

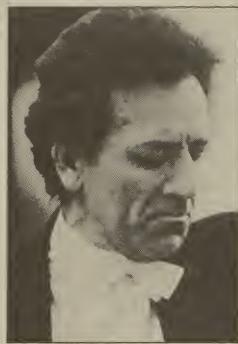
## Waiting for MTT at Davies Hall

by Philip Campbell

Four weeks without Michael Tilson Thomas on the podium at Davies Hall is beginning to feel a lot longer. The past fortnight has been a decidedly mixed bag of small pleasures and ennui. The San Francisco Symphony debut of Scottish percussionist Evelyn Glennie almost saved the day, but two lackluster guest conductors made it impossible not to long for Fearless Leader.

The return of conductor Yuri Temirkanov seemed especially disappointing. He has led the orchestra many times since his debut here in 1975, but he was saddled with a second-rate guest artist, and his own repertoire choices were merely diverting.

Russian violinist Victor Tretyakov has his credentials in order, having won First Prize at the Third International Tchaikovsky Competition, hard on the heels of taking the top prize in the All-Union Competition in Moscow. But that was over 30 years ago, and though he continues to associate with



Conductor Yuri Temirkanov

such luminaries as cellist Mstislav Rostropovich, Tretyakov has failed to establish a star career.

It's a big world out there, filled with many such talented but unexciting instrumentalists. Perhaps it is unfair to gauge Tretyakov by one performance. He simply should have chosen a different piece. The Sibelius Violin Concerto is such a well-known and loved score, a performer must have something to say to make a difference, or at least have the technique to dazzle us. This soloist merely gave a credible run-through.

Tretyakov's phrasing seemed blurry throughout, and only in the desolate opening pages of the magnificent central section did he seem to be remotely in tune with the composer's beautiful inspiration. The fireworks of the finale were negotiated without calamity, but orchestra and soloist could not make it to the conclusion completely in sync. Of course, there were some in the audience who rose to their feet, but most listeners could only respond with polite applause.

Conductor Temirkanov opened the concert with Georgy Sviridov's *Small Triptych* from 1964, and it was the only memorable event of the night. Composing under a totalitarian regime made a neurotic mess of Dimitri Shostakovich, but he managed to write an amazing array of deeply moving music. Sviridov is a lesser-known entity, though Shostakovich himself gave him high praise. About some of his songs he said, "There are few notes and much music."

The *Small Triptych* certainly fits that description. Three short movements give the orchestra a real chance to shine, and Temirkanov milked the score for all it was worth. Unfortunately, that didn't amount to a great deal. The score didn't scare the Soviet critics for good reason, since the language is resolutely conservative. We can enjoy the piece as a concise and pleasing orchestral study, but it doesn't linger in the mind. Sviridov is reportedly a much better writer for vocalists.

Temirkanov was left with Prokofiev's *Symphony No. 7* to make a final impression, but as much as I admire that other victim of Soviet philistinism, the *Seventh* is not his strongest essay in the genre, and the concert remained earthbound.

### Glennie park

Thank heaven for the appearance of Evelyn Glennie last week. Waiting for Helmuth Rilling to conduct Haydn's glorious *The Creation* April 18-21 and MTT to return on April 25 with pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet was made less tiresome by Glennie's theatrical virtuosity.

Making her SFS debut in grand style, Glennie made a feast of fellow Scots composer James MacMillan's remarkable *Veni, veni Emmanuel*, the percussion concerto he wrote for her in 1992.

Due to her well-publicized hearing impairment, Glennie performs in her bare feet, "feeling" her fellow musicians, but that doesn't distract much from her awesome technical assurance. Padding resolutely amongst her battery of instruments, she seems quite regal and fascinating in her intensity.

The use of colored stage lighting to heighten the effect of the music might disturb some concert purists, but Kronos Quartet has been doing it for years, and no one questions their artistry. Glennie is certainly an artist of the same caliber.

Whatever one might think about MacMillan's razzle-dazzle score, there is no doubt the cumulative impact. Watching Glennie as she pounded, caressed and solemnly sounded some 40 instruments made all the uproar intelligible. The magical conclusion — all the members of the orchestra ringing their own small bells while the soloist slowly approaches the impressive tubular bells at the back of the stage — is a true *coup de theatre*. The resonance of those columns is still echoing in my head.

Guest conductor Lawrence Foster had to take a secondary role with such a lustrous soloist, but he made a good if not splendid showing in Schumann's *Symphony No. 4* in D minor. The orchestra responded nicely to his controlled and richly textured approach, but the final movement didn't impress until the last measures. This was just icing after Glennie's appearance anyway. Foster had also thrown in for good measure Enescu's *Prelude à l'unison* and *Menuet lent* from the lovely Suite No. 1 in C major for Orchestra, but it failed to make much of a mark.

For the time being, that is until MTT phones home, get some rest and enjoy *The Creation*. It is a fabulous work, but it is also long. Helmuth Rilling is an early music specialist, and he is being joined by some estimable vocal soloists

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'Fountain Head, Angkor, Cambodia,' 2000, made by sun-exposure in Southeast Asia, by photographer Linda Connor at Haines Gallery

## Grey gardens

### What's up at the galleries

by Will Shank

**P**assionate" is the word that Max Cole uses to describe the self-determination that motivates her meticulously tidy paintings. It is not a word that springs automatically to mind when viewing non-objective works painted in straight, horizontal lines with different shades of gray, black and earth tones. But upon closer inspection, the lusciousness of the contrast between the luster of a slate gray, for instance, and the depth of a matte black becomes evident, as do the tiny cross-hatched brushstrokes that configure many of the horizontal lines in her work. The modest Cole has worked steadily in a similar mode for over 30 years. Her latest work can be viewed in a handsome installation at Haines Gallery (49 Geary St.) until May 12. The beautiful, exotic contact prints of San Francisco photographer Linda Connor, made by sun-exposure in Southeast Asian locals, fill the back room at Haines, their lush black-and-white tones complementing Cole's paintings quite nicely.

Also at 49 Geary, at Toomey Tourell Fine Art, the sensuous paintings of Vivienne Koerland are installed, salon-style, with a Beat Generation kind of funkiness that screams out, "Read me!" Cryptic phrases and words on strips of canvas are glued to other canvases, or to panels, or to the backs of old frames in a hodge-podge of cut-out bits of newspaper and thickly applied earth colors. Through April 30.

Down the hall, the Fraenkel Gallery is showing (until April 28) the self-portraits of Chuck Close, which opened with much hoopla last month when the artist was present. Just when you thought there was nothing new to be seen in the work of an artist who has enjoyed retrospectives at major museums worldwide, here is Close, the master of the photorealist portrait in its many broken-down-into-pixelated-components guises, offering up his own image in a daguerreotype! The hologram self-portraits in the same gallery also give one pause.

A downright bizarre collection of paintings by Rosalia Banet at

Catharine Clark Gallery (49 Geary, until April 21) could be called *The Dickheads*, but is in fact called *Wedding Day*. In the time-honored tradition of the surrealists, no explanation is offered for the transformation of an ordinary couple ("Sin Titulo, No. 77, Penes comiendo," 2000), depicted in acrylic paint on a tiny canvas, seated with coffee cups at a linen-covered table, with the tips of penises protruding from the collars where their human heads should be. Jerome Caja would be proud.

#### Defurred

South of Market at Space 743, Jann Nunn, who teaches sculpture at Sonoma State, has installed a variation on her previous show at the same gallery, which featured a roomful of surprisingly cheerful statements written on feminine hygiene pads. In *As She Seems*, Nunn has taken her preferred medium another step, installing disconcertingly dignified bronze castings of the inscribed Kotex. Other works in bronze and steel use rust as a remarkably effective and beautiful medium on stained fabric. But the clincher here is a videotape in which the deadpan artist patiently and seriously shaves the hair off her own fur coat until it is reduced to hide. The punchline is the title at the end of the video. (743 Harrison St.)

Across town at the SFMOMA Rental Gallery, whose exhibitions of local artists change monthly, check out the current grouping of works by James Gouldthorpe, Margaret Michel, and Michael S. Moore. Moore's calm horizontal landscapes, which look out onto the Bay through the gallery's large windows, are complemented by Gouldthorpe's energetically rendered multiple installation of everyday objects (school bus, bunny, gun) arranged on the entrance wall like a checkerboard. The juxtaposition of the many small paintings allows viewers to compose their own narrative, but the subject is in fact the artist's homage to his childhood memories of his grandfather's farm. Next to Gouldthorpe's introspective paintings, Michel's amazing *Franken-chair* stumbles blindly through the gallery, lurching toward the viewers! (Fort Mason Center, Building A, through April 27). ▼

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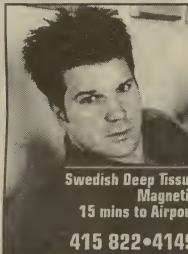
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**BAY AREA REPORTER**

## PERSONALS

## MODEL/ESCORTS

**GIVE IT UP TO DADDY**  
Do You Like a MASCULINE, DOMINANT OLDER MAN  
With a SOLID, TIGHT, MUSCULAR BODY?  
EXTRAORDINARILY BEAUTIFUL 9" TOOL.  
Do You Like LEATHER & FANTASIZE About Tool.  
TOPPED IN A SLING? A RIM STAR? GETTING HOSED  
DOWN? FF, CBT, BD, 6', 178#, 49.  
LONG SESSIONS AVAILABLE AND PREFERRED!  
207-0381 • [WWW.RENTBOY.COM/DEREK](http://WWW.RENTBOY.COM/DEREK)

**LEATHER KINK**  
LONG, SENSUAL SESSIONS  
WITH A TOP WHO ENJOYS  
TAKING HIS TIME, TALL &  
BUILT, FULL PLAYROOM.  
**RICK 431-0959**

**MULATTO GUY 9"**  
"Every white man's fantasy,  
every white man's dream!"  
24hrs (415) 775-4711

**9"**  
24 hrs, 24 hrs, 24 hrs  
Dark blonde hair  
hazel eyes  
washboard stomach  
27" waist • versatile  
Call anytime 837-8900  
for immediate callback

35, 6'2", 215# MUSCLE TOP  
HANDSOME/ HORNY/ HAIRY/ HUNG  
**\*YNG MSCL DAD\***  
Xtremely good-looking. German  
Ancestry. Blond/buzz w/goatee  
[yngrmscldaddy@aol.com](mailto:yngrmscldaddy@aol.com) 336-0444

Get Naked/Relax/Hug/Release/  
Oral/8" Nudist/346-4966/Ken/\$60

**AFFECTIONATE**  
\*\*\*\*\*STUD\*\*\*\*\*

25 GWM 6'190lbs 32wst Big Legs  
7" cut Hot BubbleBut Cleancut  
Masculine Versatile In/Out 24/7  
**PAGE ME 415-227-7727**

**BOYS ARE US**  
219-0770 Joey Lots o' newbies!

16

VRY GD LOOKING FRENCH MEDITER

**SEXY DADDY 39**

BTFL UNCUT 8"  
YNG HORNY MUSL TOP  
HNDSM HAIRY W/GOATEE  
5'9" 165# \*533-9143\*

18

**I'M NOT CUTE!**

But my friends are! Blond/Blues,  
Latinos, Asian & more. Models and  
local boys. Tops, bottoms & fantasy  
Safe, discreet & always friendly  
Take a 1 hour vacation. Some 24/7  
Page (415) 219-0770 Joey/Simone

16

33yo 5'5", 130# 8.5x6"  
So. Italian Top - out only  
Angelo 415-414-4664

16

**SAN JOSE STUDENT**

Justin - 24 6'2", 175 cute,  
Naturally smooth runners build,  
awesome endowment, In/Out 408-  
348-4425 or [EscortinSJ@aol.com](mailto:EscortinSJ@aol.com)

19

**I LOVE OLDER MEN**

Hot 27yo w/swimmers build, hairy  
chest. 6'1" 185#. I have a hot ass,  
but you'll love my mouth. Page Alex  
at (888) 234-4425

18

**CREOLE SENSUALITY**

Friendly, cute, affectionate, 5'8"  
With almond-shaped eyes, 24yo  
Light Brown skin, dreadlocks  
133lbs. Out Calls only.  
Eric in SF: pager# (650)523-6038

16

28yo well hung w/big Balls for oral

Enthusiasts \*Clint\*540-5311

**SHVD HEAD STUD**

Go.T. Handsome Masc. In/Out 24hr.

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**SMOOTH JOCK BOY**

Handsome, horny, hung, and fun.  
22 years young. Pictures at  
[lovingson791-0087](http://lovingson791-0087)

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**PARTY GUY "9"**

Call: (415) 775-4771 24-hours

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**FOOT FETISH**

SIZE 12 FEET 21 YO WM

[WWW.SFFOOTPLAY.COM](http://WWW.SFFOOTPLAY.COM)

16



**MUSCULAR SWIMMER**

washboard abs  
cut chest  
big arms  
friendly  
respectful  
educated

actual 8"  
5'10, 160#  
\$150/hr  
excellent top  
Jeff Ryan  
415-317-0527



**HORSE HUNG FARMBOY**

Dark blonde hair  
hazel eyes  
washboard stomach  
27" waist • versatile  
Call anytime 837-8900  
for immediate callback

**HOT MODEL**

New Boy to Bay Area. Fresh face  
Hot off the press. 6'2" Height/weight  
Proportionate. Cute and winning  
Personality. \$120hr. 24hrs  
Jeremy 415-816-9401

E16

BLK PLAYFUL HANDSOME TOP

Long lasting stays hard and clean

Older Guys and Bears A+ Out only

CEDRIC PGR.VM 510 639 6576

E16

**HOT MOUTH**

FRIENDLY, FUN, WORTH IT

Page Andy 790-2939 SF/Castro

E16

Top 9.5x7.5 Clint 415 864-2974

E17

**HOT NUDE**

SERVING VALLEJO E. BAY

6'2"200#Italian 35 yrs old

Well hung. Gives erotic, sensual

massage in the nude. Ph Anthony

at (707) 648-8808

E16

9"Uncut, Small Firm Butt,6'1"

150 Lbs. Versatile. 415-350-6112

E17

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Check us out. See us together. We'll

Curl your toes! 219-0770 Joey

E16

\*\*BLUE COLLAR\*\*

Handsome whitetrash. Horny Hung!

Muscular & Masculine. Open Minded

Jack 24hrs 415-219-3725

E16

**FRAT BOY DREAM**

College cutie 20yr old cute jock

6'3" Br hr. Blue eyes Male4male

Escort. Hot fun Ready to go 24hrs

Call me...415-816-9401 Chris

E16

**MODELS WANTED**

Older (40+) and/ or heavy-set

(220 lbs+) m/w/c, straight,

gay & bi for magazine and film.

Established adult entertainment

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E16

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E20

Nine inches! Sexy, fun, intimate.

**E16**

**HUGE BLK TOP TOOL**

Hung 10x6 and always hungry

**X-TALL SMTH MUSCULAR**

Body 6'6" 220lbs 36yo Expert Top

**EXTREM GOODLK MASC**

SF only Fri-Sat-Sun only 24hrs

Out call Rob \$200 Cell 314-8208

E16

**TOTAL PACKAGE**

24yr old very attractive

muscular, masculine Asian

college stud and a friendly,

real person. (510) 207-2527

E12

BB Bottom In/Marin, Out/Bay Area

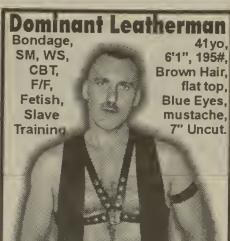
Ted\*(415) 459-3488

E22

**NEW IN TOWN**

Cleancut handsome guy

E16



**Dominant Leatherman**

Bondage,  
SM, WS,  
CBT,  
F/F,  
Fetish,  
Slave  
Training

41yo,  
6'1", 195#,  
Brown Hair,  
flat top,  
Blue Eyes,  
mustache,  
7" Uncut.

**Beginners Welcome**

Have equipment and playspace.

Scott (415) 414-1132 In/Out

<http://209.133.75.78/scott/index.html>



**ONE TRUE STUD**

AVAILABLE FOR PRIVATE

MUSCLE WORSHIP

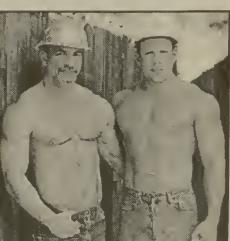
MUSCLE FANTASY

VERBAL DOMINATION

IN/OUT \$200

**GERALD**

510-414-STUD

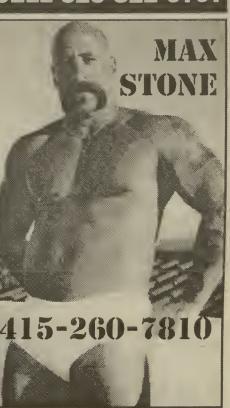


**TONY & CAM**

AVAILABLE IN S.F.

APRIL 19-22

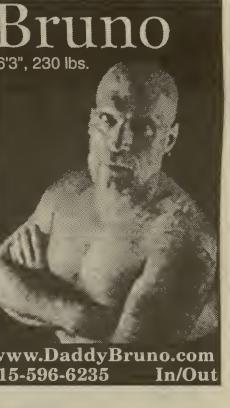
CELL 323-822-9797



**MAX STONE**

24 hrs

415-260-7810



**Bruno**

6'3", 230 lbs.

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In/Out



**Young, Hot, Sexy**

28yr old

**9x6!**

[www.DavidEscort.com](http://www.DavidEscort.com)

Page David at:

415-790-2634



**LIVE THE MYTH!**

**RENTDEREK.COM**

GBM 9.5x6uc 415.999.8322 \$200

Butt massage w/toys full body

pleasure by boyish C.M.T 596-3377

Masculine, discreet, handsome

& a 6'2", 195lb, hairy, versatile top

510-281-2920 pg/vm

Top 5'7", 155# 415 540 2284 Robert

E16

145lbs Tight Build/Versatile

**SEXY PUNK BOY**

Fun/Diff scenes. 24yo Handsome

Yum! Call Bob 251-1643



[WWW.QUEERSF.COM/ESORTS/](http://WWW.QUEERSF.COM/ESORTS/)

E16

## MODEL/ESCORTS

**Young Muscle**



For Worship  
For Fantasy  
\$200 In/Out  
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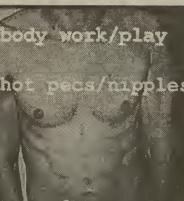
[www.blondmuscle.com](http://www.blondmuscle.com)

**9x6 CUP**



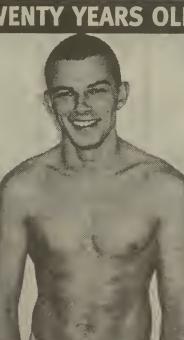
**HOT BLACK MEAT**  
925-312-6003

**body work/play**  
hot pecs/nipples



**devon**  
577.7321 out only

**TWENTY YEARS OLD**



**Page: Josh 415.414.3263**

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**RENTDEREK.COM**  
GBM 9.5x6uc 415.999.8322 \$200

Butt massage w/ toys full body  
pleasure by boyish C.M.T 596-3377

Masculine, discreet, handsome  
9" hung, 5'10" athletic, muscular top  
& a 6'2", 195lb, hairy, versatile top  
510-281-2920 pg/vm

Top 5'7", 155# 415 540 2284 Robert

145lbs Tight Build/Versatile

**SEXY PUNK BOY**  
Fun/Diff scenes. 24yo Handsome  
Yum! Call Bob 251-1643

**VERY SEXY TOP**  
Very handsome hung passionate, cre-  
ative, strong & gentle, fullfill  
your fantasies, friendly. 207-6486

**CUTE 26YR OLD**  
5'8", 135# smooth brown/brown  
clean cut Chad (650) 755-2366  
Out calls only \$100

**THAI ME OUT I'M FUN**  
25-boy-toy LMT 820 3200 ex132

**joey**  
786.1427

29yo  
5'8", 150#  
Filipino  
In or out  
24 hr/day

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**PIERCED-6'1"-155-TLC**



**9x6 TOP**  
ATTRACTIVE In/Out \$150  
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Are you a man with a unique imagination?  
Special cravings? Enjoy erotic  
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**TOM 415-256-6743**



**outcalls sf bay area**  
email: TomBuStoneXXX@aol.com

**SMOOTH SWIMMER**  
19, new to city, 145lb. 5'11"  
Cute + friendly & fun.  
Pg 415-219-3153

**YOUNG HOT HUNG JOCK**  
22 muscular & handsome 219-0726

Super clean cut, Super Hung

**HOT MED STUDNT**  
All American boy, great bod/face  
5'11", 165 br/gr smooth  
Brent 225-7538. Top SF out

Lo Bueno esta aqui  
28yo, 5'7", 130lbs. Latin, fit,  
smooth, hung, talented, educated,  
playful. Enrique 533-6620

Foreign exchange: Mexican student  
6'1", 175 excellent shape. After  
6pm. Call 251 4574 in/out Que tal?

**HOTBOD STUDENT STUD**  
22, hard, sexy & hung 219-0726

**HOT DUO**  
Young cute boys. Call Edward (415)  
572-1690. 10am-8pm. Ez parking

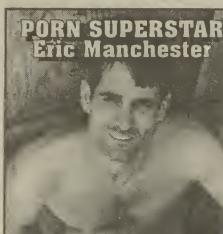
Young inshape well endowed stud  
Brad pg 415 219 6249

**KINKY PLAYMATE (XXX)**  
8" hung, big sack, lvs hot + sweaty  
sessions. SF only. Vers top. 251 0340

**SEXY ENGLISH LAD 23Y**  
Have fun with me  
Page Alex 790 3773

**NEED A PLACE 4 MASSAGE???**  
Quiet area, small fee/client, private  
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**PORN SUPERSTAR**  
Eric Manchester



**In or Out 24 hr**  
150 hr  
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NO DRUGS - NO S&M

**HORSE HUNG MAN**



Super Endowed 5'11", 175  
brn eyes/hr videos/jocks  
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You travel to Germany or Austria?  
Then call me! I'm Ingo, 36  
y.o. sturdy (ex-rugby player)  
blond, blue eyes, shaved, many,  
hung, uncut, only top and I give  
you what you need. If you want  
a nice evening, a hard S/M session,  
a beautiful weekend, or...  
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wide. See my homepage  
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and then call me. Germany:  
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Austria: 0043-676-7730149

**SPICY HOT ASIAN**



**Li Chan** pg 202-9196

Young, great, staying power 792-8028  
**VIETNAMESE STUD**

**HOT CHINESE STUD**  
25yo, 5'11", 172lbs, big, uncut, top,  
smooth, suave, playful 415 251-0261

**SAN JOSE BOY**  
25, 5'11", 165#, blonde hair  
Pager/voice: 408-882-8669  
[www.SJBoy.com](http://www.SJBoy.com)

**FOOT FETISH TOP**  
Big and tall, good-looking dude.  
Size 13 feet, 8+ uncut. 260-8831.

**DUMB JOCK W BIG C\*CK**  
Handsome stud ready to give it  
to you. VM 415 998-8087 out only

**LEATHER/SM/FANTASY**  
40yo top 6'1", 195# 7" uncut, flattop  
Gdkling into bondage, s/m, w/s,  
f/f, cbt, violet want, toys boots.

Beginners? Have playspace & equip.  
Scott (415) 411-1132 pg# In or Out

33 5'8", 150# toned hairy tattooed  
**SMALL PRO HANDS**

Jeff 415-215-8396 Out only  
<http://come.to/jeffsfist>

**HORNY CONTRACTION WORKER**  
25yo, 6', 165#, 8", aggressive  
friendly, cute, muscular, hairy.

Jake vm 415 998-8087 anytime!  
**RUSSIAN RIVER/SF**

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FREE!**

**interactive male**

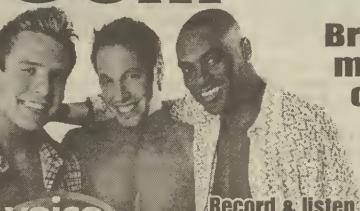


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Pleasanton  
925-426-5588  
Palo Alto  
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**San Francisco**  
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Use FREE code 2160  
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99 connect fee + \$1.99-\$2.49/min. for optional features. 18+ NTS does not pre-screen callers. 800-825-1598.

**Come Play!**



Young, great, staying power 792-8028  
**VIETNAMESE STUD**

**HOT CHINESE STUD**  
25yo, 5'11", 172lbs, big, uncut, top,  
smooth, suave, playful 415 251-0261

**SAN JOSE BOY**  
25, 5'11", 165#, blonde hair  
Pager/voice: 408-882-8669  
[www.SJBoy.com](http://www.SJBoy.com)

**FOOT FETISH TOP**  
Big and tall, good-looking dude.  
Size 13 feet, 8+ uncut. 260-8831.

**DUMB JOCK W BIG C\*CK**  
Handsome stud ready to give it  
to you. VM 415 998-8087 out only

**LEATHER/SM/FANTASY**  
40yo top 6'1", 195# 7" uncut, flattop  
Gdkling into bondage, s/m, w/s,  
f/f, cbt, violet want, toys boots.

Beginners? Have playspace & equip.  
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33 5'8", 150# toned hairy tattooed  
**SMALL PRO HANDS**

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**HORNY CONTRACTION WORKER**  
25yo, 6', 165#, 8", aggressive  
friendly, cute, muscular, hairy.

Jake vm 415 998-8087 anytime!  
**RUSSIAN RIVER/SF**

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## PERSONALS

## PEOPLE

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Cheapest way to meet real guys!  
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It's where REAL GUYS connect  
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"STROKE" "within your reach"  
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**BAY AREA MEN**  
• Live Talk  
• Meet Ads  
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**24 Hours**  
\$2.00  
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talk 1-1 or interactive menu for a mind-blowing experience!  
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Saturday, April 21st - 4 PM -?  
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WM, well blt, 8", nds well blt men (20-37) w/firm butt to eat. 776-7472

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FDA Approved vacuum pumps/surgical, permanent & safe. Enhance erection. Latest enlargement info: 312-409-9995 or 900-976-pump (\$2.95 min)

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Body Trim & Shave \* Castro Area Location. Call 4 aptmt \* 626-1168

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Free housing: (415) 552-4707

Hot boy sux boys 18-26 753-1004

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We buy magazines, photos and videos. Clean out your storage area and turn that stash into cash! Call Steve or Patrick at 621-1188 Monday to Friday 10:00AM to 5:30PM

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People in the leather community are being targeted by a person or persons who call saying he is someone that has been robbed/mugged/assaulted in a strange town and wants you to send some \$600 or more. Don't be taken in by this SCAM artist! Get a phone number and DO NOT send any money to them. Notify local police when you get their phone number. This has been going on for a couple of years now, so don't get "taken"!! BEWARE!

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Over Daddy's Knee (415) 864-2766

Meet MEN Right Now!

**MRN**  
MrN MrN

Preview each guy before you decide to connect live!

Try it for

**FREE**

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TALK SEX PERSONALS

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TALK\*SEX\*PERSONALS  
LTHR\*FETISH\*S/M\*KINK  
18+\*MC\*V\*AE\*D\*CHECKS

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18+  
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## XXX WEB

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**BAY AREA REPORTER**

**CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM**

Indicate Type Style Here ▼

**DEADLINE**

NOON on MONDAY.  
Payment must accompany ad.  
No ads taken over the telephone. If you have a question, call 415-861-5019.  
Display advertising rates available upon request.

**RATES**

First line, Regular	4.50
All subsequent lines	3.00
CAPS	double price
<b>BOLD</b>	double price
<b>X-BOLD</b>	triple price

**PAYMENT**

Cash  
 Personal Check  
 Money Order  
 Visa  
 MasterCard  
 American Express  
Minimum \$10 charge.

**CREDIT CARD PAYMENT**

Card Number  
Expiration Date  
Signature  
Name

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
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